Chess Evolution

July 2011

Top analysis by Super GMs

9...b5! N

Kamil Miton
Ivan Sokolov
Borki Predojevic
Baadur Jobava

Arkadij Naiditsch
Etienne Bacrot
Sebastien Maze

CHESS ***EVOLUTION July 2011***
№. 3,1st of July 2011.

Published by:
ANUK.doo
Knez Mihajlova 20/13, 11000 Beograd (Serbia)

Editor:
Arkadij Naiditsch

Main redactor:
Arkadij Naiditsch

Specialists Associates:
Etienne Bacrot, Baadur Jobava, Ivan Sokolov, Georg Meier, Borki Predojevic, Miton Kamil, Sebastian Maze

Tehnical Editor:
Milan Markovic

Cover design:
Milos Sibinovic

Proofreader:
Arkadij Naiditsch

Printed by:
Pi-press, Pirot

Circulation:
1000

ISSN 2217-5156

Chess Evolution July

In the Chess Evolution team and book, many changes have been made.

First, let me introduce our new Chess Evolution commentators:

Baadur Jobava – Georgian number 1, with his current rating of 2714.

Ivan Sokolov – a great fighting player and a great writer as well. Personally, I enjoyed his books a lot. They are written in a direct, funny way with deep and instructive lines.

Borki Predojevic – probably currently one of the strongest Balkan chess players and a friend of mine since many years. I always had the feeling that his analytic skills are much higher than his ELO had ever been.

Miton Kamil – one of the strongest Polish players, my team mate from the recent winner of "*French Team Champion*" Marseille. I remember us playing World Juniors under 10- no lying, I looked it up in my database, but anyway, we know each other for almost 15 years.

Georg Meier – German number 2☺.

For the July issue, only one team member had to make a break, which is Sebastian Feller because of his very unclear process against the French Federation. But in any case, big thanks to him for the first 2 issues of Chess Evolution. He has done a great job!

Changes in the book:

Less games-more words and diagrams, in addition to the puzzle section CE July will also have an endgame section made by Georg Meier.

For me, it was a bit of pity to change the concept of Chess Evolution. I think, CE March and May had been one of the greatest theoretical books that had ever been published, but again and again I had to deal with voices like:" We want more words", "Where are the explanations", "Toooooo many lines"....

Well-You wanted it, You got it....

Why CE July will have much less games? Very simple, through the additional diagrams and words commentaries the book doubled up the amount of pages per game. In my opinion a book of more than 300 pages is simply – too "fat".

GAMES

(1) **[A04]**

□ **Kramnik, V (2785)**

■ **Grischuk, A (2747)**

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (2.2), 13.05.2011

Both players played a very sharp variation in the English variation. Grishuk choose the very interesting 7... ♗b6. After 8.c5 and 11.♗f4 black has to play very carefully to equalize (9... d5!). In the game Grishuk managed to draw in an unpleasant endgame.

1.♘f3 c5 2.c4

Small surprise, Kramnik is playing an English system. Obviously, he doesn't want to play a queen's gambit like in the last match against Radjabov.

2... ♘c6 3.♘c3 e5 4.e3 g3

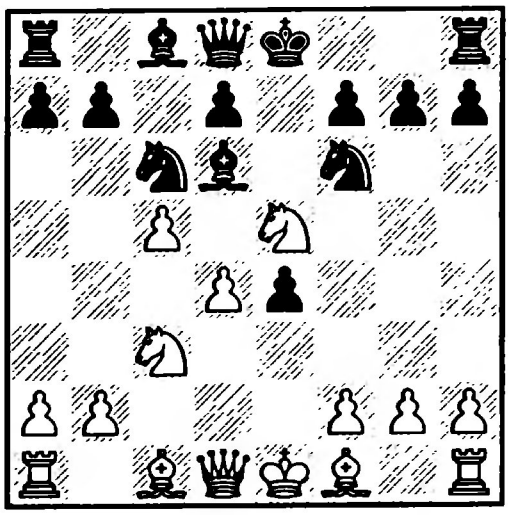
Is the other main move.

4... ♘f6 5.d4 cxd4 6.exd4 e4 7.♘e5 7.♘g5 is a playable alternative. 7... ♗b4 8.d5 ♘e5 9.♕d4 d6∞

7... ♗d6!?

Interesting choice by Grischuk, he decided to deviate from the main line (7... ♗b4 Is the main line.).

8.c5!?



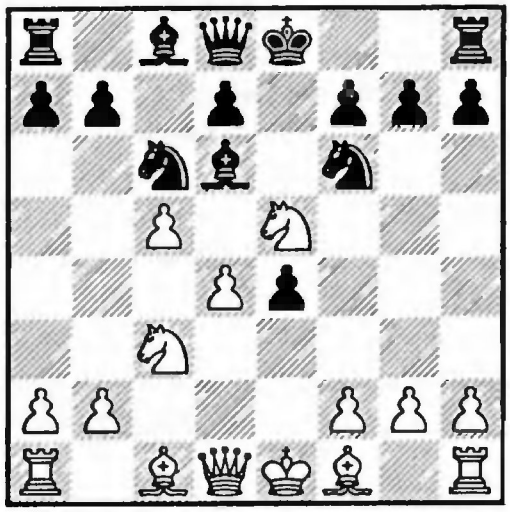
Many moves are possible in this position, but Kramnik has of course analyzed this line a lot. The idea of 8.c5 is to ask a question to the Bishop on d6. If black takes two times in e5, then the square in d6 will become weak. If ♗b8 goes to c7 or b8, then the knight is free to go to the nice square in c4.

8.♗f4 ♕e7 9.c5 (9.♘xc6 dxc6=) 9... ♗b8 10.♘b5 0-0 11.♘d6 ♘d5!N 12.♗g3 ♕e6 13.♘xc6 dxc6 14.♗c4 ♕g6∞ black'position is slightly worse, but with good moves, it's possible to hold.;

8.f4 0-0 9.♗e2 b6! 10.♗e3 ♘e7 Black's plan is easy: move the knight c6 and the bishop d6 with the idea to play d6 and attack the strong white knight on e5. 11.0-0 ♘f5 12.♗f2 ♗b4= Mikhalchishin, A (2552) – Avrukh, B (2588)/ Batumi 1999/;

8.♘g4 An interesting alternative to play. 8... ♘xg4 (8... 0-0 9.♗g5 ♗e7

10.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 11.♗e3 ♖e8 12.♗e2 d6 13.0-0 h6 14.♘d5 ♗g5 15.♕d2± With a pleasant position for White due to the strong knight in d5, and the bad pawn's structure of black.) 9.♕xg4 0-0 10.♗h6 ♕f6 11.♗e3 ♗b4 12.♕xe4 d5! Only move to disturb white's development and to create some counter play. 13.♕xd5 ♖d8!N (13... ♗f5 14.0-0-0! ♖ad8 15.♕f3 ♘xd4 16.♘d5 ♘xf3 17.♘xf6+ gxf6 18.♖xd8 ♖xd8 19.gxf3± And White obtains a good endgame with pawn up.) 14.♕g5 ♕xg5 15.♗xg5 ♖xd4 16.♖c1 ♗e6 17.♗e3 ♖dd8∞ And Black has compensation for the pawn. But in my opinion, this position should be a good try to play in one game for White.



8... ♗b8!

The best square for the bishop.

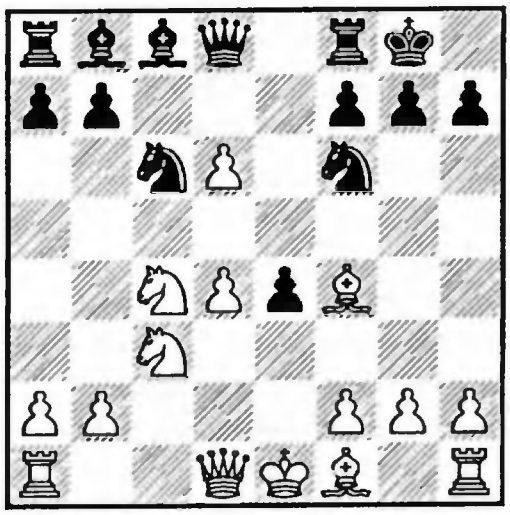
8... ♘xe5 9.cxd6 ♘g6 10.h4± Shengelia, D (2567) – Grover, S (2434)/Dubai 2010/;

8... ♗xe5?! 9.dxe5 ♘xe5 10.♕d6 ♕e7 11.♘b5±

9.♘c4 d5!

Of course, a nice move to give some perspective to the Bishop on c8!

10.cxd6 0-0 11.♗f4N

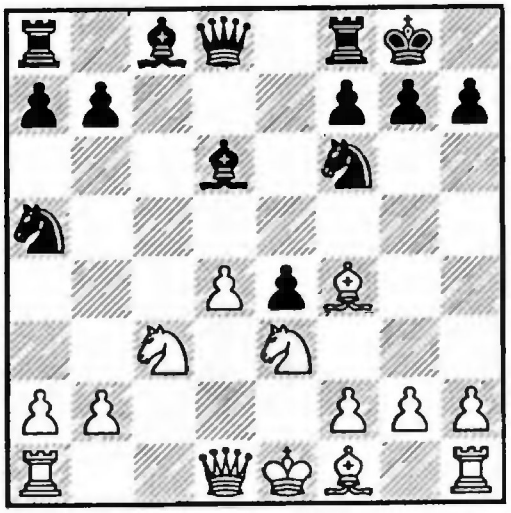


A logical move, White is developing his bishop and protecting the d6 pawn. 11.d5 This move was played once. Black has no problem in the game, pair of bishop compensates the bad structure. 11... ♘a5 12.♘xa5 ♕xa5 13.♗g5 ♗xd6 14.♗xf6 gxf6∞ Lida Garcia, F (2049) – Pierrot, J (2450) / Mar del Plata 2008/

11... ♘a5

⌓11... a6!? I think this is the simplest way to equalize. 12.♗e2 (12.d5 ♘a5 13.♘e3 b5 14.♗e2 ♘b7 a good move and now the knight is going to his best square, d6! 15.♖c1 ♗xd6 16.♗xd6 ♘xd6=) 12... b5 13.d5 ♘a5 14.♘e3 (14.♘xa5 ♕xa5 15.0-0 ♗d7 16.♕d4 ♗a7 17.♕d2 b4 18.♘d1 ♘xd5 19.♗g3 ♖ac8∞) 14... ♘b7 15.b4 ♗xd6 16.♗xd6 ♘xd6= And position is just equal. Black is controlling the pawn d6 and also defending the e4 pawn. It's a very solid position for both sides.

12.♘e3 ♗xd6



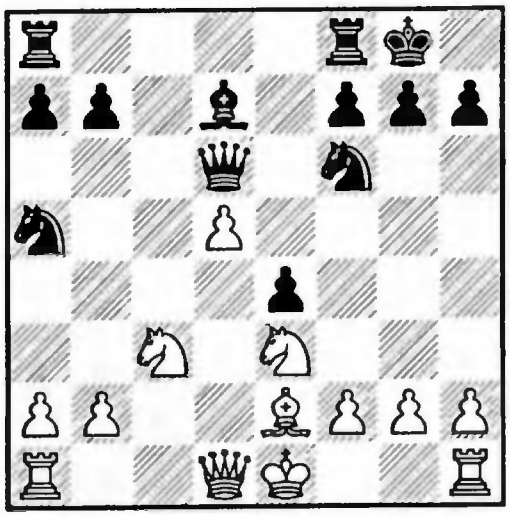
13.♗xd6

13.♗g5 h6 14.♗xf6 (14.♗h4 ♗e7 15.♗e2 ♘c6 16.♗xf6 ♗xf6 17.d5 ♘e7=) 14... ♕xf6 15.♕a4 (15.♘xe4?! ♗b4+ 16.♘c3 ♖d8↑ With a strong initiative.) 15... ♕d8 16.♘xe4 ♗c7 17.♗e2 ♖e8 18.♘c3 a6 19.0-0 b5 20.♕c2 ♕d6 21.g3 ♘c6 22.d5 ♘d4 23.♕d3 ♗b6 The knight on d4, the pair of bishop, and the aactivity of black's pieces leads black to a pleasant position.

13... ♕xd6 14.d5 ♕e5?!

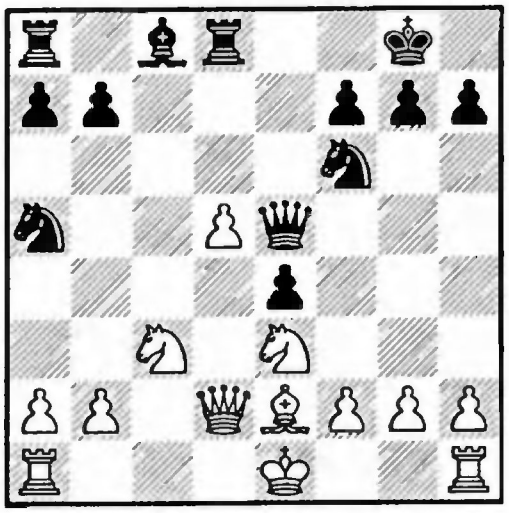
It's a logical move, with the idea to put the knight on d6 and have a solid position. Unfortunately, this plan is too slow for Black, and it would have been much better to have played the active ♗d7.

⌓14... ♗d7! I think this is a good idea to play with b5 to have some counter play on the queenside. 15.♖b1! nice move, winning a tempo compared to bishop e2. ♖b1 is also protecting the pawn in b2. (15.♗e2

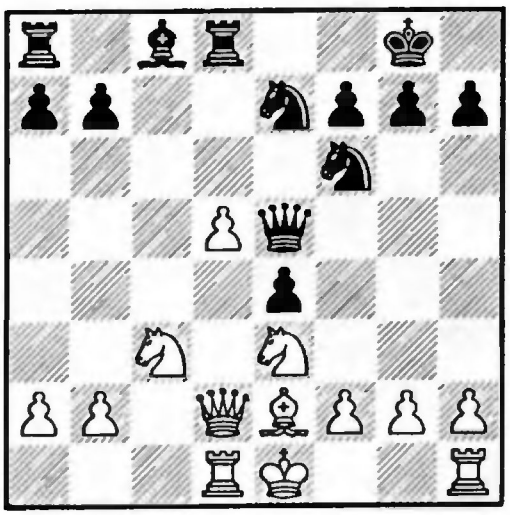


15... b5! Thematic move! 16.♗xb5 (16.♕d4 b4 17.♘b5 (17.♘xe4? ♘xe4 18.♕xe4 f5 Followed by f4 and black will take the lead in this game due to the central position of the white king.) 17... ♗xb5 18.♗xb5 ♖ab8=) 16... ♗xb5 17.♘xb5 ♕b4+ 18.♘c3 ♕xb2=) 15... ♖ac8 16.♕d2 (16.♗e2 b5 It's important for Black to play in an aggressive style. In that case, White cannot realize his plan and the equality will be very near. 17.♗xb5 ♗xb5 18.♘xb5 ♕b4+ 19.♘c3 ♘c4 20.0-0 (20.♘xc4 ♖xc4 21.0-0 (21.a3 ♕c5 22.0-0 e3 23.fxe3 ♕xe3+ 24.♔h1 ♖d4 25.♕e1 ♕xe1 26.♖bxe1 ♘xd5=) 21... ♖d4 22.♕b3 ♕xb3 23.axb3 ♘xd5=) 20... ♘xb2 21.♕d2 ♕xc3=) 16... ♘g4!? 17.♗e2 (17.♘xg4 ♗xg4∞; 17.♘cd1 ♘xe3 18.♘xe3 b6 19.b4 ♘b7 20.♗a6 ♖c7 21.0-0 b5 22.♗xb7 ♖xb7 23.♖bc1 f5=) 17... ♘xe3 18.fxe3 (18.♕xe3? f5 19.0-0 a6 20.♖bc1 b5↧ And black's position is more than fine!) 18... f5 19.♕d4 b5∞ Same idea, disturb the white's plan non stop and create play for Black. In

fact, in this kind of position, if you let White do what they want, for example castle, put their rooks in the center, place his pieces in good way, you have no chance to survive with black.
15.♗e2 ♖d8 16.♕d2

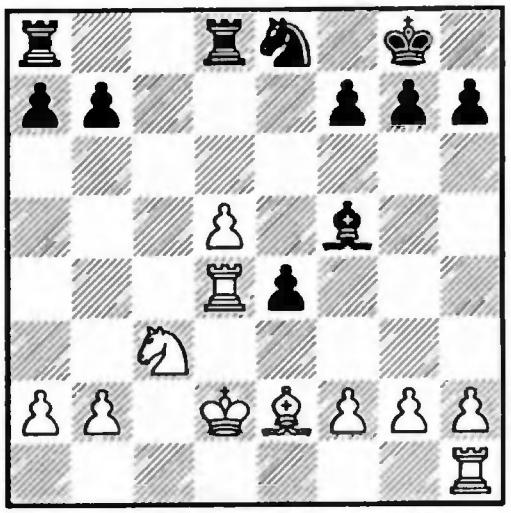


With the idea to play ♖d1 really soon.
16.0-0 ♘c6 17.♕d2 ♘d4 This is why Kramnik began with 16.♕d2. 18.♖ad1 ♘xe2+ 19.♕xe2 b6 20.♖fe1 ♗b7∞
16... ♘c6
16...b6 To my thinking, Sasha Grischuk understood that the plan with b6 was too slow. 17.0-0 ♘b7 18.♘c4 ♕e7 (18... ♕c7 19.♖fd1 ♘d6 20.♘e3 ♗b7 21.a4 a6 22.♖ac1± The bad bishop on b7 and the strong pawn d5 offers to White a pleasant position.) 19.♖fd1 ♘d6 20.♕d4 ♗b7 21.♘e3 ♕d7 22.a4± and it will be difficult to find a good plan for Black. Just hold and wait. But not funny against such a strategical player like Kramnik.
17.♖d1 ♘e7

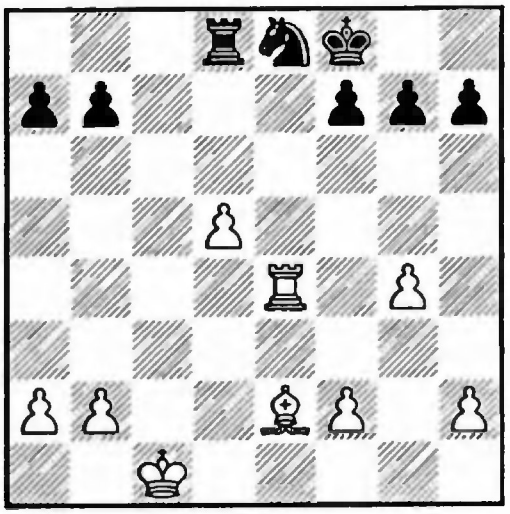


18.♕d4?!
I don't think white has an advantage in this endgame.
⌓18.0-0! ♘f5 (18... ♗e6 19.♕d4 ♕xd4 20.♖xd4 ♘f5 21.♘xf5 ♗xf5 22.d6 ♖ac8 23.♖fd1 a6 24.h3± And white have a good endgame due to this powerful pawn on d6. me) 19.♘c4 ♕b8 (19... ♕c7? 20.d6 ♕c6 21.g4 ♗e6 22.gxf5 ♗xc4 23.♗xc4 ♕xc4 24.♖fe1±) 20.♕c2 ♖e8 21.a4 ♗d7 22.d6± with the pawn on d6, I like a lot white's position. It would have been completely different if black had made a blockade with the Bishop d7 compared to a blockade with the Knight d6. Now white is better.
18... ♕xd4 19.♖xd4 ♘f5 20.♘xf5 ♗xf5 21.♔d2 ♘e8?!

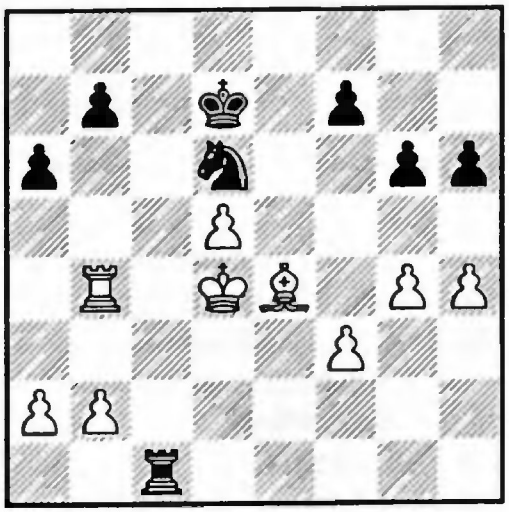
Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs



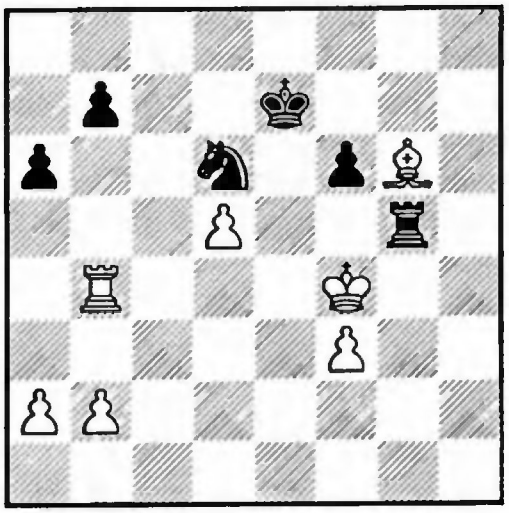
I can easily undestand why Grischuk played this move, even if it was not the best. He just wanted to put his knight on d6 and wait.
⩲21... ♖d6 22.♖c1 ♖ad8 23.♔e3 g5 24.h3 ♔g7 25.g4 ♗g6= I don't see how white can make any progress.
22.g4! ♗g6 23.♖c1 ♖ac8?! 24.♘xe4 ♖xc1 25.♔xc1 ♗xe4 26.♖xe4 ♔f8±

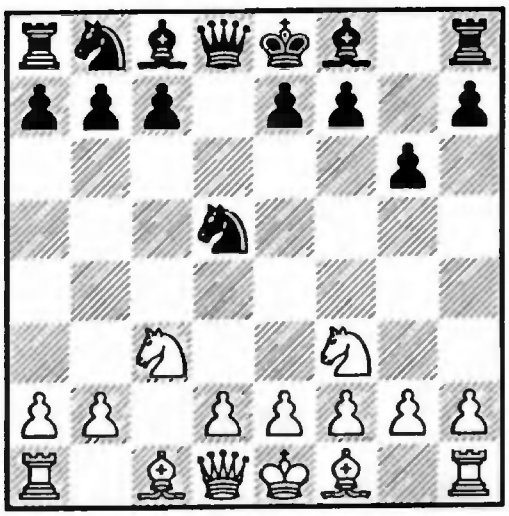


This endgame is of course better for white but with a powerful knight on d6 it's very difficult to make progress.
27.♖a4 a6 28.♖b4 ♘d6
Kramnik is pawn up but it looks like a draw. The knight is too strong compared to this bishop!
29.♔d2 h6 30.♗d3 ♔e7 31.♔e3 ♔d7 32.f3 ♖e8+ 33.♗e4 g6 34.♔d4 ♖c8 35.h4 ♖c1=



It was not ideal for white to let black the opportunity to enter on the c-file.
36.♔e5 ♔e7 37.g5? hxg5
⩲37... a5! tricky move and Black is back in the game! 38.♖b3 (38.♖a4 b5 39.♖xa5? ♘c4+-+) 38... ♖h1 39.♖c3 ♔d7= And White is losing a pawn. Even against such a great player, I would like to play this endgame with Black. No risks for Black and some chances to create problems to the White's side.
38.hxg5 ♖g1 39.♔f4 f6 40.♗xg6 ♖xg5





And it's a dead draw. No way for Kramnik to find a plan to win this game.
41.♗e4 ♖g2 42.a4 a5 43.♖b3 ♔d8 44.♔e3 ♖h2 45.♔f4 ♖g2 46.♗b1 ♖d2 47.♗d3 ♖g2 48.♔e3 ♖h2 49.♔d4 ♖h4+ 50.♔c5 ♔c7 51.♖b6 ♖xa4 52.b3 ♖b4 53.♖xb4 axb4 54.♔xb4 b6 55.♔c3 ♔d8 56.♔d4 ♔e7
½-½ *[S.Maze]*

(2) [A15]

☐ **Topalov,V (2775)**
■ **Kamsky,G (2732)**

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (1.4), 08.05.2011

Topalov made a great Novelty with 5.♕c2 in the Grunfeld. In fact, i think that after 5... ♗g7, White is already better. After a great game, and in a completely winning position, the Bulgarian player blundered with 45.♗f1. To my thinking, 5... ♘c6 is the best continuation for Black.

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5
5.♕c2N

Just five moves and already a novelty by Topalov! In the second game of this match, he played without success 5.♕b3. What to say about this interesting ♕c2? In my opinion and also because Topalov needs to win this game, he made the choice to get Kamsky out of his preparation, and to obtain a complex and sharp position. This move ♕c2, after analysis, is quite strong and is also prophylactic in my view!

5... ♗g7

5... ♘b4?! 6.♕a4+ ♘8c6 7.d4 (7.a3 ♘d5 8.♘e5 (8.♘d4 ♘xc3 9.bxc3 ♗d7=) 8... ♗d7 9.♘xd7 (9.♘xf7 ♔xf7 10.♘xd5 e5 11.♕c4 ♗e6 12.e4 ♘d4∞) 9... ♕xd7 10.e3 ♗g7 11.♗e2 0-0-0 12.0-0 ♔b8 with a solid position for Black.) 7... ♗g7 8.e4 ♗d7 9.♕b3 ♗xd4 10.♘d5±;

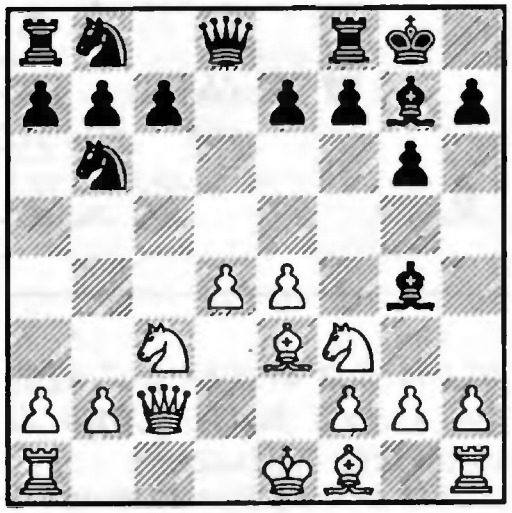
5... ♘c6 6.d4 (6.e4 ♘db4 7.♕b1 ♗g4 8.a3 ♗xf3 9.gxf3 ♘a6∓) 6... ♘db4 7.♕a4 ♗d7 8.♕d1 e5 (8... ♗g4!?) 9.dxe5 (9.a3? exd4 10.axb4 dxc3 11.bxc3 ♗g7∓ Alekseev (2673)

–Kurnosov (2633) 2011) 9... ♗g4 10.♗g5 ♗e7 11.♗h6 ♗xf3 12.gxf3 ♗g5 13.♗xg5 ♕xg5∞

6.e4 ♘b6

6... ♘b4 7.♕a4+ ♘8c6 (7... ♘4c6 8.d4 0-0 9.d5 ♘e5 10.♘xe5 ♗xe5 11.♗h6 ♖e8 12.♖d1 ♘d7 13.♗e3 ♘f6 14.♗e2 ♗d7 15.♕c2±) 8.d4 ♗d7 9.♕b3 e5 (9... ♗xd4 10.♘d5 ♗e6 (10... a5 11.a3 ♘a6 12.♘xd4 ♘xd4 13.♕c3±) 11.♗c4 a5 12.♘xb4 axb4 13.♗xe6 fxe6 14.0-0 ♕d6 15.♗h6 0-0-0 16.a3± with a powerful attack on the black's king.) 10.d5 ♘d4 11.♘xd4 exd4 12.♕xb4 dxc3 13.bxc3 c5 14.♕b2 0-0 15.♗d3 c4 16.♗c2 f5 17.0-0 fxe4 18.♗e3 ♗f5 19.♖ad1 ♕d6 20.♗d4±

7.d4 0-0 8.♗e3 ♗g4

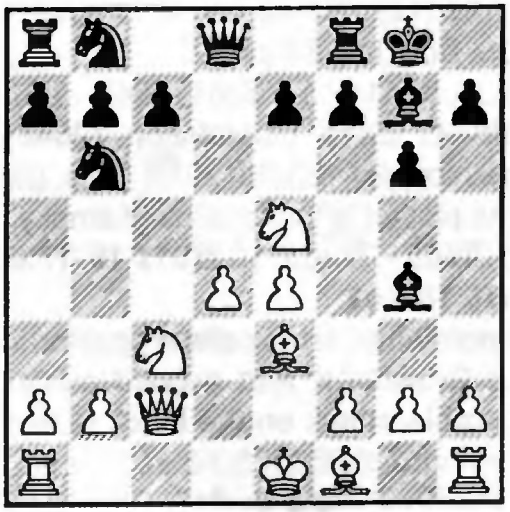


After 7 moves, Topalov is still in his preparation I think. The position is comfortable and many plans are possible for White.

8... ♘c6 9.d5 ♘e5 10.♘xe5 ♗xe5 11.f4 ♗g7 12.♖d1 ♗g4 13.♗e2 ♗xe2 14.♘xe2±;

8... f5 9.♕b3+ ♔h8 10.♖d1 fxe4 (10... f4 11.♗c1 ♘c6 12.♘e2 ♗g4 13.d5 ♘e5 14.♗xf4 ♘xf3+ 15.gxf3 ♗d7 16.♖d2±) 11.♘g5 e6 12.♘cxe4 ♘c6 13.h4±

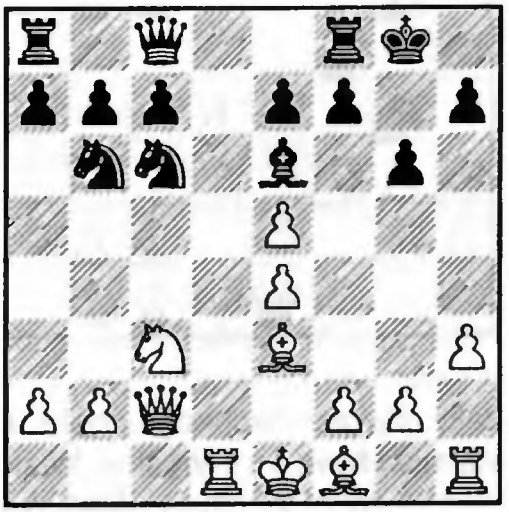
9.♘e5



9... ♗xe5

9... ♗e6 10.f4 ♘c6 11.♖d1 ♗xe5 12.fxe5±

10.dxe5 ♘c6 11.h3 ♗e6 12.♖d1± ♕c8



13.f4

13.♗e2! The idea is to castle very

fast, it's an interesting sacrifice. If Black takes on e5, White just plays b3 and later maybe puts a bishop or a queen in b2. 13... ♘xe5 14.b3 ♖d8 15.0-0 ♖xd1 16.♖xd1 ♘c6 17.♕b2 ♕f8 18.♗f4 ♕g7 (18... ♖d8 19.♗xc7 ♖xd1+ 20.♗xd1±) 19.♕d2 ♕f6 20.♕e3±

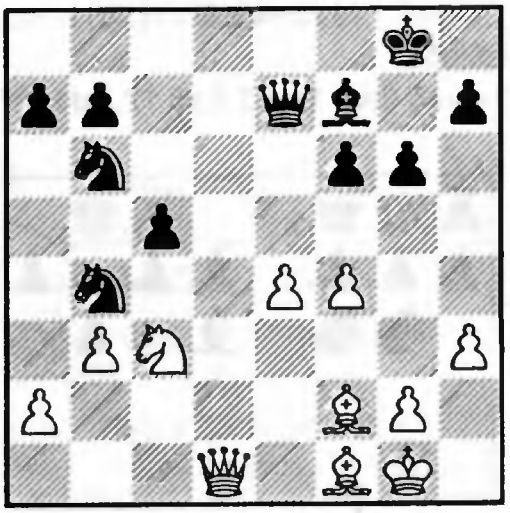
13... ♖d8 14.b3 ♘b4

14... ♖xd1+ 15.♕xd1 ♕e8 16.♗e2 ♖d8 17.♕c1± Gustafsson (2648) - Krassowijkti (2376) 2011. This game was played after Topalov–Kamsky.

15.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 16.♕b1± f5 17.exf6 exf6 18.♗e2

Topalov has an excellent position with the 2 bishops, and a good center. A possible attack on the black is maybe coming...

18... ♕e7 19.0-0 ♗f7 20.♗f2 ♖d8 21.♖d1 ♖xd1+ 22.♕xd1 c5 23.♗f1



Finally players exchange rooks and we almost have an endgame. White is better no doubt, because of the strong 2 bishops. But it's not so easy to find a plan.

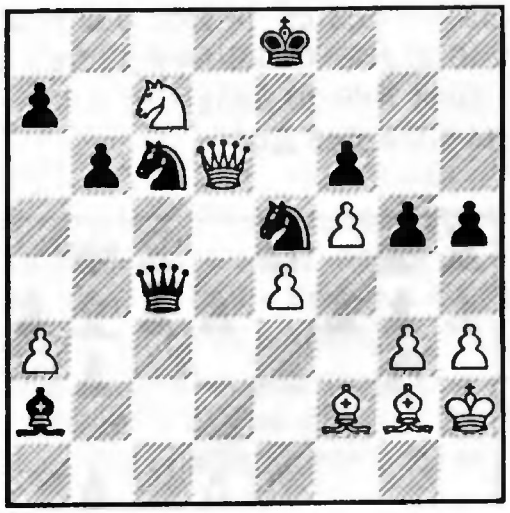
23... ♘c6 24.g3 ♔g7 25.♗g2 h5 26.♘b5 ♘c8 27.♕d2 c4 28.bxc4 ♗xc4 29.♘d4 ♕b4 30.♕c1 ♘8e7 31.a3 ♕a4 32.♕b2 b6 33.♔h2 ♔f7 34.♕c3 ♗a2 35.f5 ♕c4 36.♕b2 ♘e5 37.♕d2 g5 38.♘e6 ♘7c6?

38... ♗b3 39.♗d4 ♕d3 40.♕xd3 ♘xd3 41.♗f1 ♗c4=

39.♕d6+-

Kamsky forgot ♕d6! Topalov is winning completely, the poor black king has no chance to escape!

39... ♔e8 40.♘c7+



⌓40.♗d4 ♕d3 41.♕f8+ ♔d7 42.♕xf6 ♘f3+ 43.♗xf3 ♕xf3 44.♕f7+ ♘e7 45.♘f8+ ♔d8 46.♕xa2+-

40... ♔f7 41.♘d5 ♕e2 42.♕xf6+ ♔e8 43.♕e6+ ♔f8

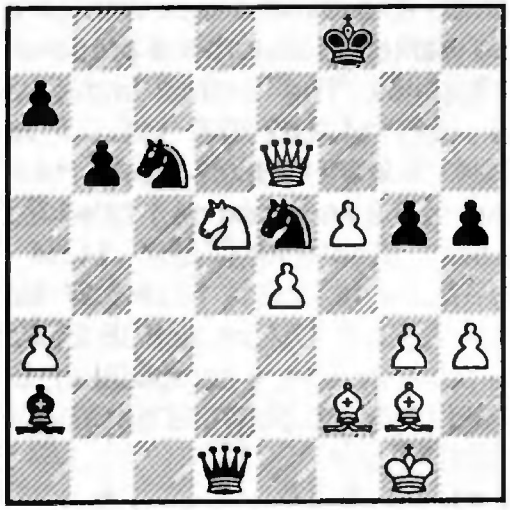
Kamsly is still fighting in this losing position. A famous Sportman Remi Verune said "I will fight till the last second". It's what Kasmky is doing, not giving up!

44.♔g1

Topalov missed already several wins, and I don't like this passive ♔g1. The

Bulgarian is not in a great shape, because normally in this kind of position he would usually find a way to win quickly.

44... ♕d1+



45.♗f1??

And under pressure Topalov made a blunder... After such a big fight, Kamsky will hold the draw.

45.♔h2 ♘f3+ (45... ♕e2 46.♕h6+ ♔f7 47.♕h7+ ♔f8 48.♕h8+ ♔f7 49.♗g1 ♘f3+ 50.♔h1 ♗xd5 51.exd5 ♘e1 52.♕h7+ ♔f8 53.♕h6+ ♔f7 54.♕e6++−) 46.♗xf3 ♕xf3 47.♕f6+ ♔g8 48.♕xg5+ ♔f8 49.♕f6+ ♔g8 50.♕e6+ ♔f8 51.♔g1 ♕d1+ 52.♔g2 ♗c4 53.♕f6+ ♔g8 54.♘e3+−

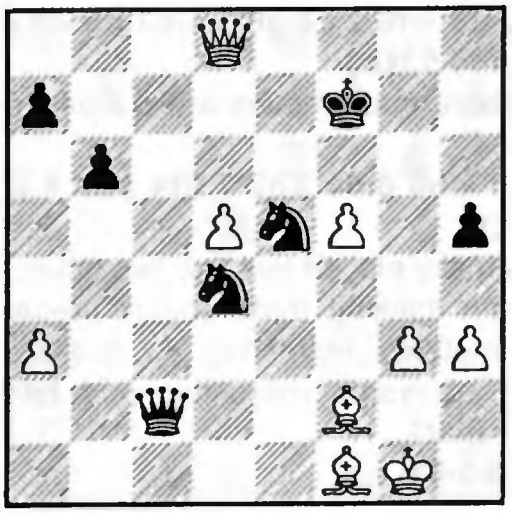
45... ♗xd5 46.exd5 ♘d4! 47.♕f6+

47.♕xe5?? ♘f3+ 48.♔g2 ♘xe5-+

47... ♔g8 48.♕xg5+

48.♗xd4 ♕xd4+ 49.♔h1 ♕xd5+ 50.♗g2 ♕d1+ 51.♔h2 ♘f3+ 52.♗xf3 ♕xf3 53.♕xg5+ ♔f7 54.♕g6+ ♔f8=

48... ♔f7 49.♕d8 ♕c2



Controlling the square in c7, very important move by the American player.

50.♗g2 ♕c1+ 51.♔h2 ♕c2

And now it's a dead draw, nothing to do for Topalov.

52.♗g1 ♘df3+ 53.♔h1 ♘e1 54.♗f2 ♕xf2 55.♕c7+ ♔f6 56.♕d6+ ♔f7 57.♕c7+ ♔f6 58.♕d6+ ♔f7

½-½ *[S.Maze]*

(3) [A15]

□ Topalov,V (2775)

■ Kamsky,G (2732)

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (1.2), 06.05.2011

Topalov found one more time an exciting novelty in the Grunfeld with 9.0-0-0. Kamsky reacted with a tricky move 10... ♗h6. In my view, this is not the best move, 10... ♗f5 looks more logical. In the game, the former World champion misses an advantage with 12.♔b1. The game went totally wrong for him after the bad 15.♖d2.

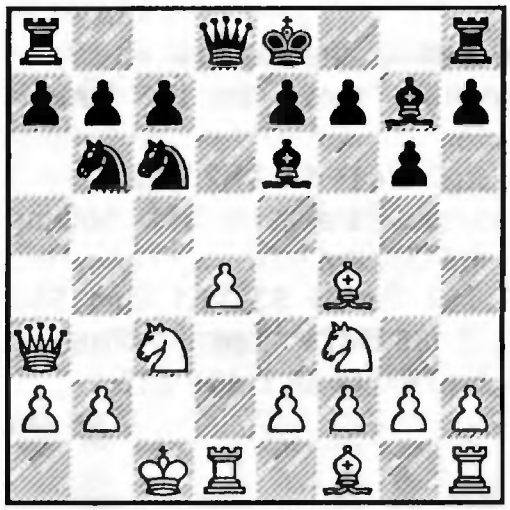
1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.♕b3

Others main moves are 5.♕a4+ and 5.e4.

5... ♘b6 6.d4 ♗g7 7.♗f4 ♗e6 8.♕a3 ♘c6

Kamsky played this line two times, so I am thinking that Topalov prepared something interesting. 8... 0-0 or 8... c5 are some interesting possibilities for Black.

9.0-0-0N



A very interesting novelty and also a very dangerous one...

9.e3 a5 10.♗b5 0-0 11.♗xc6 bxc6 12.♕c5 ♘d5 13.♗e5 ♘xc3 14.♕xc3 ♗d5= Eljanov(2717)-Kamsky(2692) 2010

9... ♘d5

The logical answer, Black wants to put a knight on b4 and plays a5. The idea is to reduce the activity of the queen and also prepare a attack against the king.

9... ♘c4? 10.♕c5 ♘6a5 11.e4±;

9... 0-0? 10.d5 ♗xd5 11.e4 e6 12.exd5 exd5+-

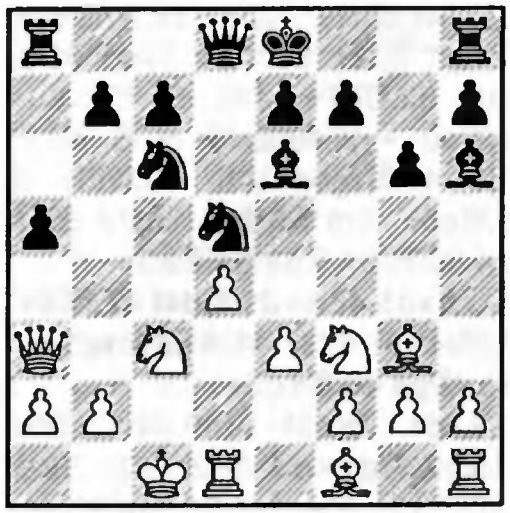
10.♗g3 ♗h6+

What a interesting move! Of course, this move doesn't look natural, and it's strange to lose a tempo like that with the bishop. But in my opinion, Kamsky wanted to avoid the idea with e4 and also wanted to disturb the preparation of Topalov. The normal move was 10... ♗f5 11.♘d2 0-0 (11... ♘xd4? 12.e4 ♘xc3 13.bxc3 ♗e6 14.♘f3 winning the knight on d4.) 12.e4 ♘xc3 13.bxc3 ♗g4 (13... ♗d7 14.h4 h5 15.♘f3 a6 16.♘g5↑) 14.f3 ♗d7 15.h4 h5 16.♘b3 a6 17.♘c5 ♗c8 18.♗e2 and the position is very complicated, but I would prefer to play this position with White.

11.e3

11.♔b1? ♗f5+ 12.♔a1 (12.e4 ♘xc3+ 13.♕xc3 ♗xe4+ 14.♗d3 ♗xd3+ 15.♖xd3 ♕d5∓) 12... ♘db4 13.♘e1 ♗c2!∓

11... a5



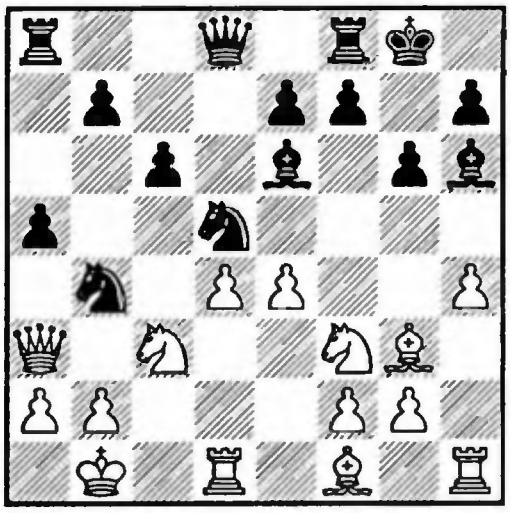
12.h4?!

In my view, this move is a strategical mistake. Topalov is going too fast in his plan, the simplest 12. ♔b1 with the idea to play e4 was simply better for White.

12.♔b1!

a) 12... ♗f5+ 13.♗d3 ♗xd3+ 14.♖xd3 0-0 15.♘xd5 ♕xd5 16.♕b3 ♕f5 17.a3 a4 18.♕c2 ♖fd8 (18... ♘a5 19.♗xc7 ♘b3 20.♖c3 ♕g4 21.♗g3±) 19.♖c3 ♕xc2+ 20.♖xc2 With a good endgame for Topalov.

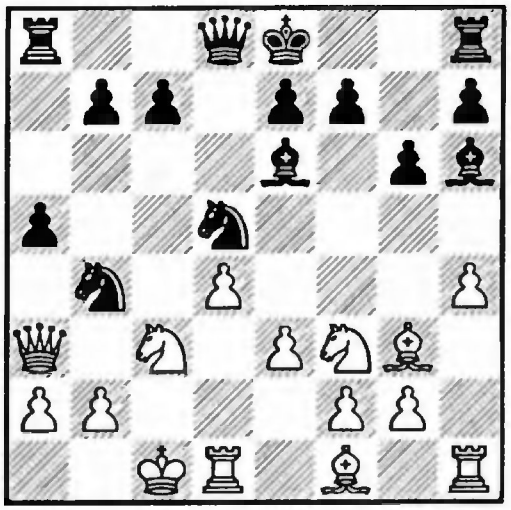
b) 12... ♘cb4 13.e4 c6 (13... ♘xc3+ 14.bxc3 ♗xa2+ 15.♔b2±) 14.h4↑ (14. exd5? ♗f5+-+) 14... 0-0



(14... f6 15.♗c4 ♕c8 16.h5 ♘b6 17.♗xe6 ♕xe6 18.♖he1 ♔f7 19.♗c7 ♘c4 20.♕b3 b5 21.♗g3 c5 22.a4± With a messy position but White should better.) 15.h5 g5 16.♘e5±;

c) 12... ♘xc3+ 13.bxc3 0-0 14.h4 ♗g4 15.h5 ♗xh5 16.♖xh5! gxh5 17.♕c5⩲;

12... ♘cb4

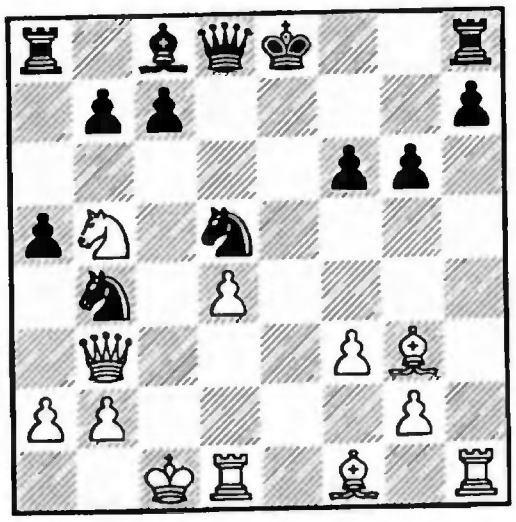


13.h5

The Bulgarian is following his plan, but unfortunately, he is wrong. The bishop on e6 is very strong so White should attack him with the logical ♘g5 and White can still hope for an edge.

13.♘g5 ♗g4 14.f3 ♗c8 (14... ♘xe3!? 15.fxg4 ♘xd1 16.♕a4+ c6 17.♕xd1 f6 18.♗c4 fxg5 19.♗e5 gxh4+ 20.♔b1 ♖f8 21.♖xh4 ♗f4 22.♗g7 e5 23.♖xh7 ♕d7 24.a3 ♗h6 (24... 0-0-0 25.axb4 exd4 26.♘e4+−) 25.♗xh6 ♕xh7 26.♗xf8 g5+ 27.♔c1 ♔xf8 28.axb4 axb4 29.♕f3+ ♔e7 30.♘e4 ♖f8 31.♕e2±) 15.♕b3 f6 (15... ♗xg5 16.hxg5 ♘xe3 17.♘b5 ♘ed5 18.♗e5 f6 19.gxf6 exf6 20.♗g3

Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs



And I love White's position! Big compensation for the pawn, and in practice, it should be very difficult for Black.) 16.e4 a4 17.♗b5+ c6 18.♗xa4 fxg5 19.exd5 gxh4+ 20.f4 hxg3 21.♖xh6 ♕d6 22.dxc6 ♕xf4+ 23.♖d2 ♕f1+ 24.♖d1 ♕f4+ 25.♖d2=

13... c6

With the idea to play b5.

14.hxg6 hxg6 15.♖d2?

Aie! I just cannot understand this move. Topalov was playing for the "h" file since 3 moves and suddenly he changed... According to my opinion, the simply 15.♗e2 was the best move with the idea to bound the rooks.

15.♗e2 f6 (15... b5 16.♘g5 ♘xc3 17.bxc3 ♘xa2+ 18.♔c2 ♗d5 19.♕c5 with a crazy position!) 16.♖h4 ♔f7 17.♖dh1 ♕f8 18.♘e4 ♗f5 19.♘fd2± In my opinion, White's position is better. But in practice, everything is possible with so many complicated lines.

15... f6∓

Now the position is very bad for White, the Rook on d2 and the queen on a3 are not happy at all! On the other side, all the pieces are very well placed.

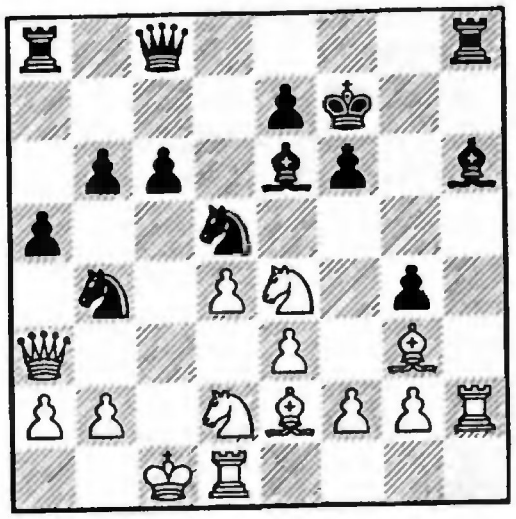
16.♘e4 b6

The poor Knight on e4 can not jump anywhere!

17.♗e2 ♕c8

Preparing c5...

18.♖h4 ♔f7 19.♖d1 g5 20.♖h2 g4 21.♘fd2



21... c5

Time to destroy the center and to open the lines...

22.dxc5 f5 23.♖xh6 ♖xh6-+ 24.♘g5+

Kamsky is playing very accurately and is giving no chance to Topalov. He will finish the game in a brilliant style!

24... ♔f8 25.♘xe6+ ♕xe6 26.♗c4 ♖c8 27.♗f4 ♖f6 28.e4 ♖xc5 29.exd5 ♕xd5 30.b3 ♕d4 31.♗e3 ♕c3+

0-1 *[S.Maze]*

(4) **[A30]**

□ **Ivanchuk,V (2776)**

■ **Nisipeanu,LD (2659)**

5th Kings Tournament Medias ROU (8), 19.06.2011

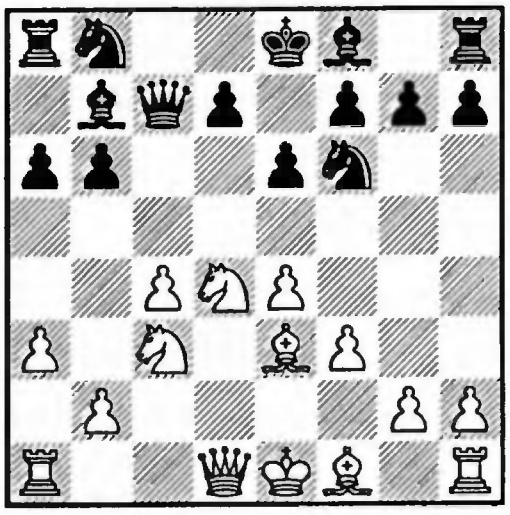
Nisipeanu is choosing a very often played, but in my opinion – bad line. Black is getting into big danger very fast –and even after not such an exact play of white. White got plenty of possibilities to Black enormous under pressure. Ivanchuk is missing out to play the very strong 18.♗c4 at the right moment and is giving an op-portunity to escape to a draw to the Black.

1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘c3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 a6

5... d5;

5... ♕c7

6.e4 ♕c7 7.a3 b6 8.♗e3 ♗b7 9.f3



Here we have a position that appeared in almost 2000 games, which is very hard for me to understand. Black`s position is very dangerous

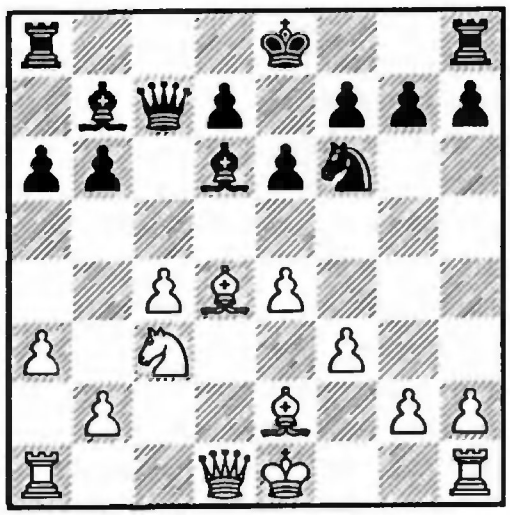
9... ♘c6

9... d6 This is the main move here 10.♗e2 ♘bd7 11.♖c1 And white are having a very good version of Sicilian "Hedgehog"

10.♗e2

10.♖c1!? This is the move of Gelfand. Seems to bring White a slight but clear advantage 10... ♘xd4 (10... h5 11.♘d5 exd5 12.cxd5 ♘xd5 13.exd5 ♕e5 14.♔f2± Gelfand-Morozevic; 10... ♗c5 11.b4 ♗xd4 12.♗xd4 ♘xd4 13.♕xd4±) 11.♗xd4 ♗d6 12.g3 h5 Trying to do something fast, otherwise White are doing clearly better. White got always the same easy threat: Na4 13.♘a4 h4 14.♘xb6 hxg3 15.♘xa8 ♗xa8 16.h4± Position is unstable, but White are doing clearly better

10... ♘xd4 11.♗xd4 ♗d6



12.♕d2

12.♘a4!? If You can win material immediately-why not to go for it! 12... b5 (12... ♗xh2 13.♘xb6 ♖d8 14.c5!? Strong computer move (14.♕c2 The more human move. It seems that White should be better here 14... ♗g3+ (14... ♕f4!? 15.♗d3 h5 16.♕d2!;

(4) **[A30]**

□ **Ivanchuk,V (2776)**

■ **Nisipeanu,LD (2659)**

5th Kings Tournament Medias ROU (8), 19.06.2011

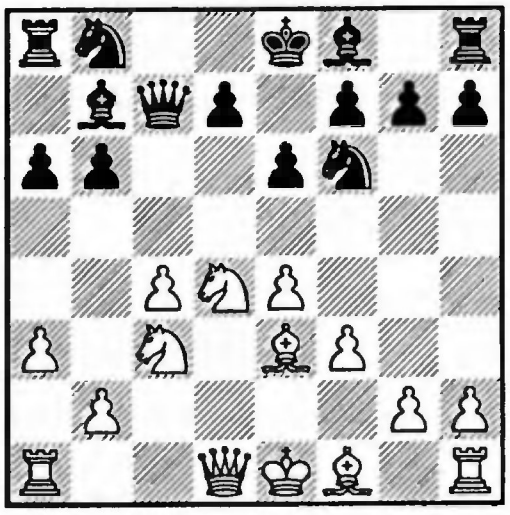
Nisipeanu is choosing a very often played, but in my opinion – bad line. Black is getting into big danger very fast –and even after not such an exact play of white. White got plenty of possibilities to Black enormous under pressure. Ivanchuk is missing out to play the very strong 18.♗c4 at the right moment and is giving an op-portunity to escape to a draw to the Black.

1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘c3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 a6

5... d5;

5... ♕c7

6.e4 ♕c7 7.a3 b6 8.♗e3 ♗b7 9.f3



Here we have a position that appeared in almost 2000 games, which is very hard for me to understand. Black`s position is very dangerous

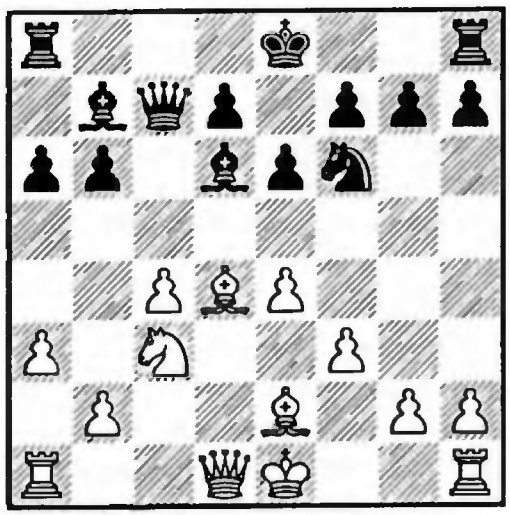
9... ♘c6

9... d6 This is the main move here 10.♗e2 ♘bd7 11.♖c1 And white are having a very good version of Sicilian "Hedgehog"

10.♗e2

10.♖c1!? This is the move of Gelfand. Seems to bring White a slight but clear advantage 10... ♘xd4 (10... h5 11.♘d5 exd5 12.cxd5 ♘xd5 13.exd5 ♕e5 14.♔f2± Gelfand-Morozevic; 10... ♗c5 11.b4 ♗xd4 12.♗xd4 ♘xd4 13.♕xd4±) 11.♗xd4 ♗d6 12.g3 h5 Trying to do something fast, otherwise White are doing clearly better. White got always the same easy threat: Na4 13.♘a4 h4 14.♘xb6 hxg3 15.♘xa8 ♗xa8 16.h4± Position is unstable, but White are doing clearly better

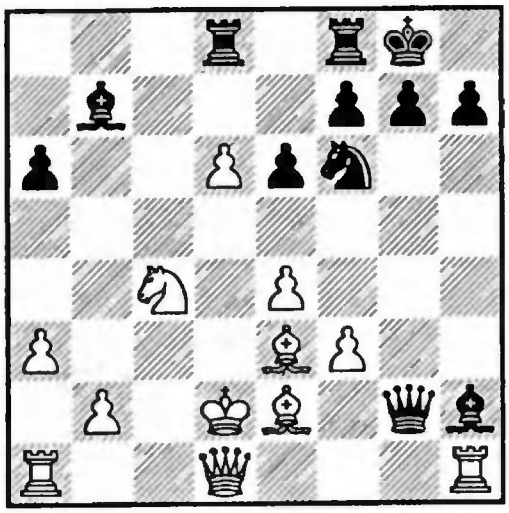
10... ♘xd4 11.♗xd4 ♗d6



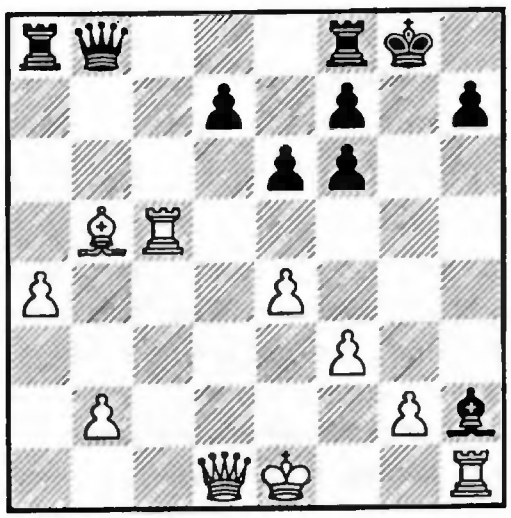
12.♕d2

12.♘a4!? If You can win material immediately-why not to go for it! 12... b5 (12... ♗xh2 13.♘xb6 ♖d8 14.c5!? Strong computer move (14.♕c2 The more human move. It seems that White should be better here 14... ♗g3+ (14... ♕f4!? 15.♗d3 h5 16.♕d2!;

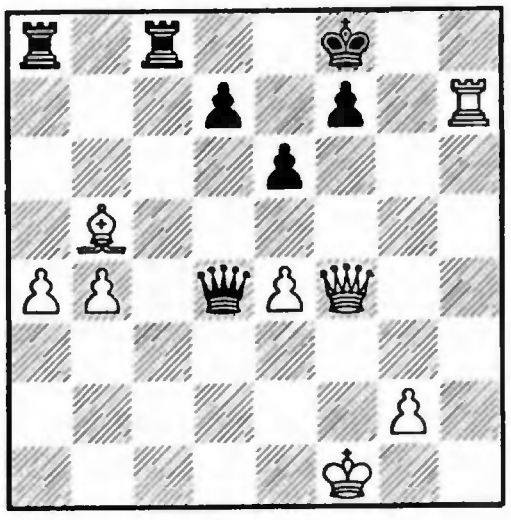
14... ♗e5 15.♕c3 ♗xd4 16.♕xd4 ♕g3+ 17.♔f1 d5 18.♖h3! ♕c7 19.cxd5 exd5 20.e5±) 15.♔f1 ♗e5 16.♕c3±) 14... 0-0 15.♘c4 ♕g3+ 16.♔d2 d5 17.cxd6 ♕g5+ 18.♗e3 ♕xg2



19.♖g1!! The key move of the line! White are giving an exchange just to secure their free pawn on on d6 and to exchange the queens. 19... ♗xg1 20.♕xg1±) 13.cxb5 axb5 14.♘c3 ♗c6 15.♘xb5 ♗xb5 16.♗xb5 ♗xh2 Interesting thing, doesn't matter if You play now 16... ♗xh2 or 16... 0-0 in the end we will come to the position with very strong 22.♖c5 (16... 0-0 17.♖c1 ♕a5+ (17... ♕b8 18.a4 ♗xh2 19.♗xf6 gxf6 20.♖c5!↑ Watch 16... Bxh2) 18.♗c3 ♕b6 19.a4 ♗xh2 20.♗d4 ♕b8 21.♗xf6 gxf6 22.♖c5 Watch 16... Bh2) 17.♖c1 ♕b8 18.a4 (18.♕e2 0-0 19.e5 ♗g3+ 20.♔f1 ♘d5∞) 18... 0-0 19.♗xf6! Such a move like 19. ♗xf6 is the only thing You can do, even if You see something forced, and even then You feel pity to give Your monster Bishop for a knight on f6... 19... gxf6 20.♖c5!



Typical and very strong! White is preparing the mate attack on the Black king, same time covering the a7–g1 diagonal with the rook. 20... ♗g3+ 21.♔f1 ♕b6 22.b4 ♖fc8 (22... d6 23.f4!+–) 23.f4 Beginning of a forced line which ends with a very beautiful and only move to win! 23... ♗xf4 24.♕g4+ ♗g5 25.♖xg5+ fxg5 26.♕xg5+ ♔f8 27.♖xh7 ♕d4 28.♕f4!!



Fantastic move. White queen is attacking the f7 pawn and protecting

the White's king from several threats. White is winning

12... 0-0 13.♘a4

13.g3 also a possible move, but it feels somehow bad to make it. Usually moves like g3 are wrong

13... b5

What else to do? Black needs to try their luck in complications

14.cxb5

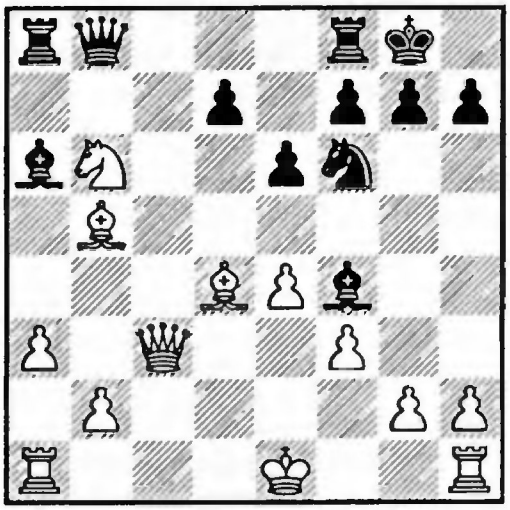
14.♘b6 ♖ad8 15.cxb5 axb5∞

14... axb5 15.♗xb5 ♗f4

Best chance

15... ♗c6 16.♗xc6 dxc6 (16... ♕xc6 17.♘b6 ♖a6 18.♖c1 ♕b7 19.♘c4±) 17.♘c5 ♖fd8 18.♕c3 ♗xh2 19.0-0-0!± And position of White is clearly better

16.♕c3 ♕b8 17.♘b6 ♗a6



18.♕a5?!

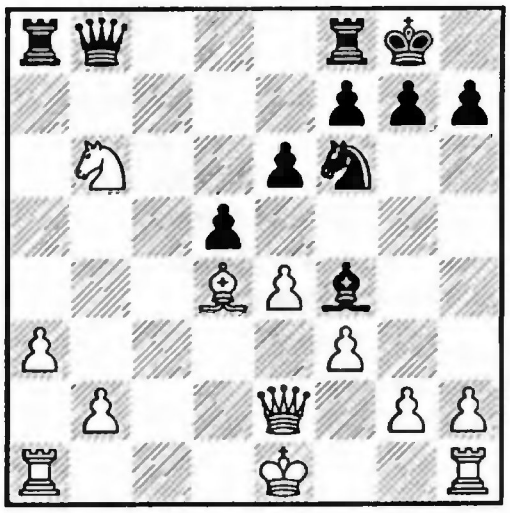
Ivanchuk is making a mistake in complication. I am at home, and my computer shows a much stronger move, after which Black would be in big trouble

18.♗c4! Not easy even to think of such a move during the game. 18... ♖a7 19.g3 ♗d6 20.♖d1±

18... ♗xb5 19.♕xb5 d5!

Black needs to act quickly, they are pawn down and should try to use the moment that White's king is still in the center, and white pieces are somehow hanging a bit

20.♕e2



20... ♗e5!

Another great move by Nisipeanu!

21.♗xe5 ♕xb6 22.♖d1 ♖a4!

Giving White no rest! Every Blacks move is an attacking move

23.♕f2

23.♗xf6? To play for a win would be a big mistake here for White 23... gxf6 24.exd5 exd5 25.♖xd5 ♖c8 26.♖d1 ♖ac4-+

23... ♕b5 24.♕e2 ♕b6

½-½ *[A.Naiditsch]*

(5) **[A30]**

□ **Meier,Geo (2650)**

■ **Iordachescu,V (2640)**

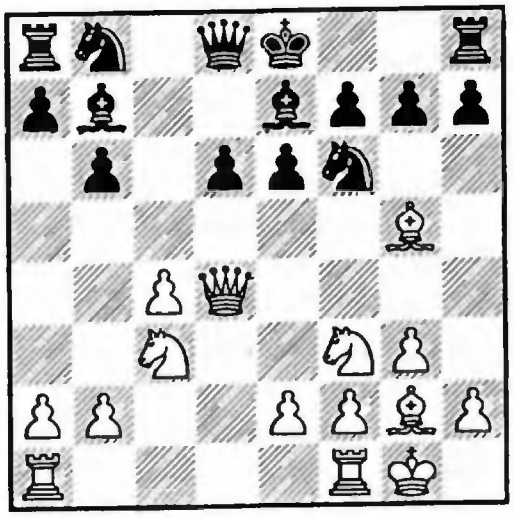
TCh-FRA Top 12 2011 Mulhouse FRA (3.1), 28.05.2011

In the next game black chose to play Hedgehog setup in English Opening. White went for main line which leads to an interesting position with opposite coloured bishops. This line should be slightly worse for black but it was played by strong grandmasters many times, so probably there are more ideas for black than this game shows. Meier played typical setup with white. After he stoped d5 and b5 counter play, he prepared plan with pushing b4–b5 and taking control over c6 square, when black transferred his knight to f6. In this moment white found very nice positional idea with h3, ♔h2 and ♕h1 (26.♕h1!) and he took control over c6 square on original way. It was clear that black needs to do something active, so he tried to get counter play playing h5–h4 and b5. This was more desperate than a real try. After white got clear advantage he played very good technical moves and won game in nice style. This game should be an example of how to play against Hedgehog in English Opening.

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.♘c3 e6 4.g3 b6 5.♗g2 ♗b7 6.0-0 ♗e7 7.d4 cxd4 8.♕xd4 d6

This is tibia of Hedgehog variation in English opening. Here white has plenty of possibilities and plans which starts with 10.♖d1, 10.b3, 10.♗g5 etc. Almost in every line white is preparing pressure on d6 pawn, trying to use black`s early fiancé to which is loss of time in development.

9.♗g5



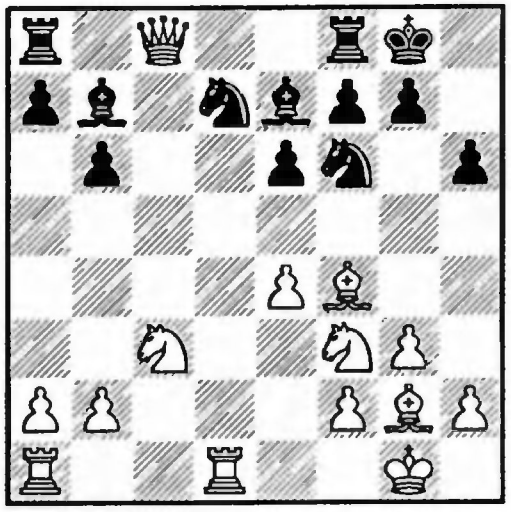
Popular line. Like we said white wants to make pressure on d6 pawn and this is one of the ways where he is ready to give dark squared (with exchanges on f6) for pressure.

9... a6

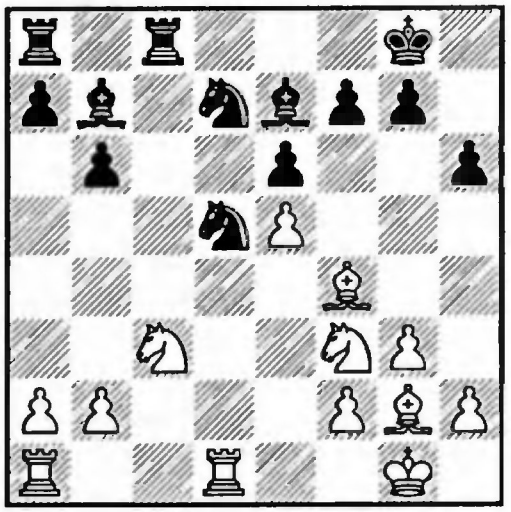
Usually this is way how best players playing in this position.

Interesting alternative is: 9... 0-0 10.♖fd1 ♘bd7 11.♘b5 d5 12.cxd5 ♗xd5 and here main move is: (12... exd5 13.♘h4 h6 14.♗e3 ♗c5 15.♕d2 ♗xe3 16.♕xe3 ♖e8 17.♕d2± Huzman-Adams, Neum (ECC) 2000) 13.♘c3 ♗c6 14.♕c4 ♕c8 (14... ♖c8 15.♕a6±) 15.e4 where white prepares e5. Black should react with 15... h6 (Worse is 15... ♘c5 16.♘d4 ♗b7 17.♖ac1 h6 18.♗f4 g5 (18... ♘cxe4 19.♘xe4 ♗xe4 20.♗xe4 ♕xc4 21.♖xc4 ♘xe4 22.♘c6+-) 19.♗e3 ♘fxe4 20.♘xe4 ♘xe4 21.♕f1 ♕e8 22.♖c7 ♗d5 23.♘f5 exf5 24.♖xd5 ♗d6 25.♖c4± and after some complications white is better.)

16.♗f4 ♗b7 17.♕xc8



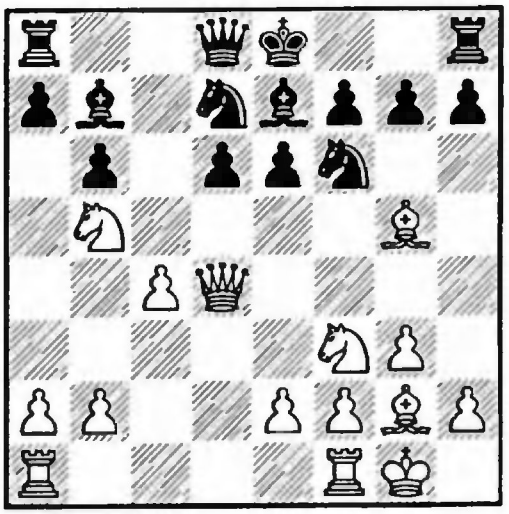
(Other option is 17.♕e2!? where white also keeps pressure.) 17... ♖fxc8! Very important resource which allows black to play on (Worse is 17... ♖axc8 18.e5 ♘d5 19.♘xd5 ♗xd5 20.♘e1 ♖fd8 21.♗xd5 exd5 22.♖xd5± and white is pawn up. Kramnik–Aronian, Monaco (rapid) 2007) 18.e5 ♘d5.



Here I suggest: 19.♘d4!?N (19.♘xd5 ♗xd5 20.♘e1 ♗xg2 21.♔xg2 (21.♖xd7 ♗c6!∓ with idea 22.♖xe7 ♔f8 and white rook is trapped.) 21... ♖c7 22.♖ac1 ♖xc1 23.♖xc1 ♔f8= Laznicka–Sulskis, Dresden (ol) 2008) 19... ♘xc3 20.♗xb7 ♘xd1 21.♖xd1 ♘c5 22.♗xa8 ♖xa8 23.♘c6 ♔f8 24.♗e3 ♔e8 25.♔g2 ♘a6 26.f4± and white keep some pressure in endgame;

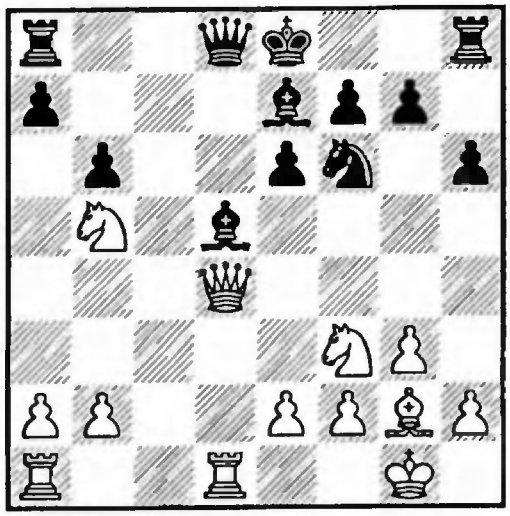
9... h6 looks like loss of time, because white will anyway take on f6. 10.♗xf6 ♗xf6 11.♕d3 a6 (Big mistake would be 11... 0-0? 12.♘g5 hxg5 13.♗xb7 ♘d7 14.♗xa8 ♕xa8 15.♘e4+– and white is winning. Illescas Cordoba–Adams, Chalkidiki 1992) 12.♖fd1 ♗e7 (12... ♗xc3 13.♕xc3±) 13.♘e4 ♗xe4 14.♕xe4 ♖a7 15.♘d4± and we came to similar setup as in main line, but the question is whether the black needs h6 so early.;

Black also can try new idea from GM Beliavsky which comes after 9... ♘bd7 10.♘b5



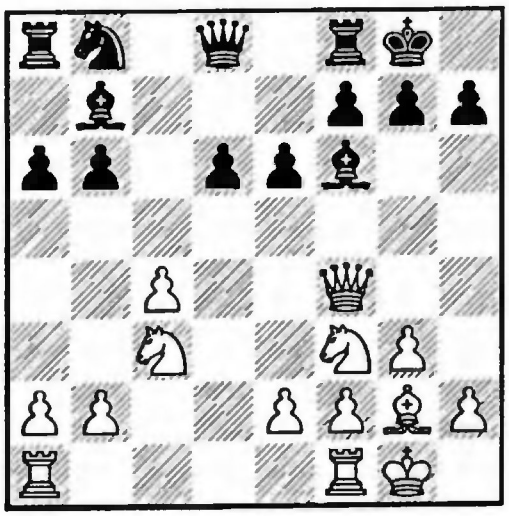
10... h6! (On 10... d5 white can try 11.♗f4!? (Also white can choose 11.cxd5 ♗xd5 12.♖ac1 0-0 13.♘c3

♗b7 14.♖fd1 h6 15.♗f4± with pressure. Epsig–Schmittdiel, Bundesliga 1999) 11... 0-0 12.♗c7 ♕c8 13.♗d6 ♕d8 14.cxd5 ♗xd5 15.♗xe7 ♕xe7 16.♘c7 ♖ac8 17.♘xd5 ♘xd5 18.♖ac1± Bindrich–Natsidis, Budapest 2011) 11.♗xf6 ♘xf6 12.♖fd1 d5 13.cxd5 exd5 Black has isolated pawn on d5 which should secure some advantage for white. Still black has bishop pair and very active play, so for followers of Hedgehog I suggest also to try this line with black. Game continued: (13... ♗xd5?!



was played in two games, but here white has strong novelty 14.e4!N ♘xe4 (14... ♗xe4 15.♕a4 ♗d5 16.♘c7++–) 15.♘e5 and black is forced to go back with 15... ♘f6 and after 16.♘c6 ♕d7 17.♘xe7 ♕xe7 (17... ♔xe7 is even worse. After 18.♕b4+ ♔e8 19.♖ac1 /\ ♘c7 19... ♕e7 20.♕f4 ♔f8 21.♖c7 ♕d8 22.♘c3+– white has decisive attack.) 18.♗xd5 ♘xd5 19.♕xg7 0-0-0 20.♖ac1+ ♔b7 21.♖d3± and in last position white has clear advantage. Black king is in danger, while pawns on kingside are targets for white queen.) 14.♕a4 (14.♖ac1 0-0 15.♕d3 ♗c5 16.♘fd4 ♘e4 17.e3 ♕f6 18.♖c2± /=) 14... 0-0 15.♘bd4 ♕e8! 16.♕xe8 ♖fxe8 17.♗h3 ♗c5 18.e3 a5 19.a4 ♖ad8 20.♖ac1 ♘e4 and black is fine. Tratar–Beliavsky, Slovenia (tch) 2011

10.♗xf6 ♗xf6 11.♕f4 0-0

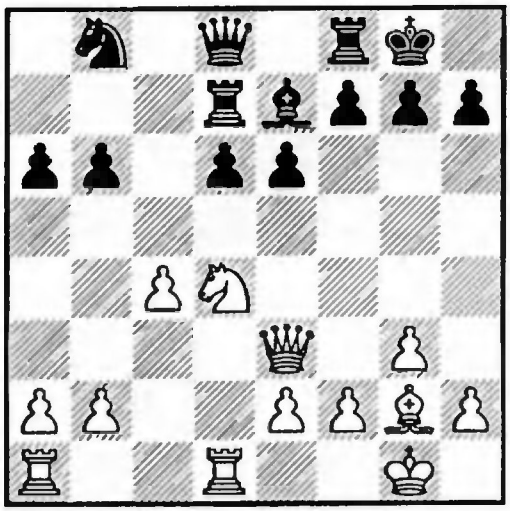


After more or less forced moves, white has possibility to attack pawn on d6. In game white opted for ♖ad1, but also I will show one interesting example how white can play with 12.♖fd1. Differences between this two moves is hard to see, because white is playing almost same plan after in both variations.

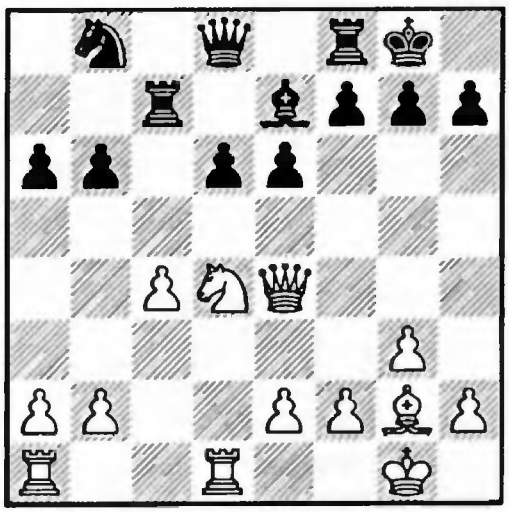
12.♖ad1

So, main alternative to move in the game is: 12.♖fd1 Black has to play similar moves like in the game: 12... ♗e7 13.♘e4 ♗xe4 14.♕xe4 ♖a7 15.♘d4 (Also deserves attention 15.♕e3!? with idea to prevent idea connec–

ted with ♖c7. Here black should use his chance for develop and play 15... ♘c6! (In few games black played 15... ♖d7 but here white can play typical 16.♘d4

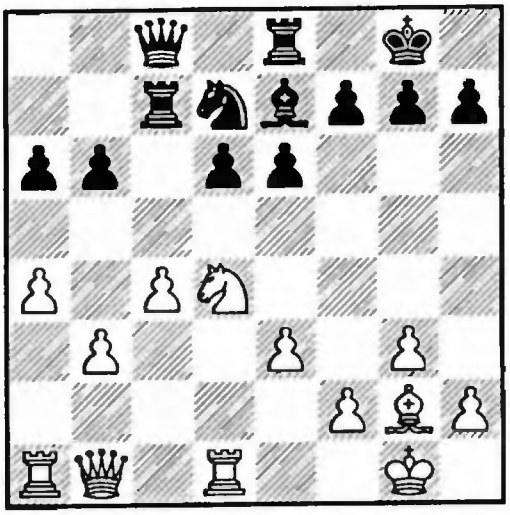


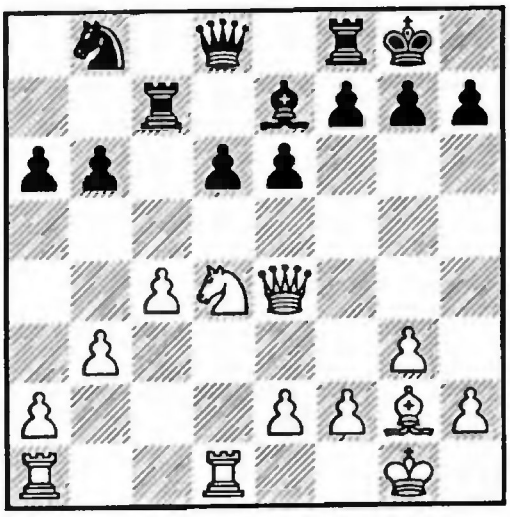
and it seems that this rook is misplaced on d7 square especially because there is motive to sacrifice knight on e6 (for example after ♗h3). Black knight on b8 stays out of the game and this is better version for white than in the game. Following examples proving these facts: 16... ♕c7 17.♖ac1 ♗f6 Black decided to change his bishop for knight on d4, but this is in white favour. (17... ♕c5?! 18.♕d2 white prepares e3 and wants to take control over c6 square with b4, a4 and b5. 18... ♖c8? 19.♗d5! ♖f8 20.b4 ♕c8 21.♘xe6 fxe6 22.♗xe6+ ♔h8 23.c5+− Riska−Jirasek, Czech Republic 2009) 18.♕d2 ♗xd4 19.♕xd4 ♘c6 20.♕d2 ♖fd8 21.♖c3 ♘e7 22.♕d4 ♘f5 23.♕d3 ♘e7± with small advantage for white. Tratar−Ghaem Maghami, Bled (ol) 2002) 16.♘e1 ♕c7 17.♖ac1 ♖c8 18.b3 ♕d8∞ and black should not have problems thanks to good development. Following moves by black can be ♖d7, g6, even idea with ♗g5 to provoke some weaknesses in white position.) 15... ♖c7



16.b3 and here black played different moves, but usually it comes to the same type of position. We will follow move which was played recently on Olympiad in Khanty Mansisk:

a) 16... ♖e8 17.e3 ♕c8 18.♕b1! ♘d7 19.a4± We are familiar with this plan. It is very hard to find counter play for black who needs to white while white has few plans and one of the main is to play b4−b5 with pressure on queenside. This is exactly what happened in the game:





19... ♖c5 20.♖a2 ♗f6 21.♖ad2 ♗e7 22.♖c2 ♘e5 23.h3 g6 24.♕a2 ♗f8 25.f4! ♘d7 26.b4 ♖c7 27.b5 a5 28.♘c6 ♘b8 Black couldn't wait and he decided to give exchange on c6, but this is leading to position which is better for white. 29.♕b3 ♘xc6 30.bxc6 ♖xc6 31.♗xc6 ♕xc6 32.♔f2± /+/− and white was on top, still game finished with draw after mutual mistakes. Giri−Vuckovic, Khanty Mansiysk (ol) 2010

b) After 16... ♖c5 17.a4± and position will be similar like in the game, because break with 17... d5?! is met by 18.♕b1 ♗f6 (18... dxc4? 19.♘xe6+−) 19.cxd5 exd5 20.e4!± and white will stay with pawn up.;

c) Meier already had experience in this setup. In that game black played:

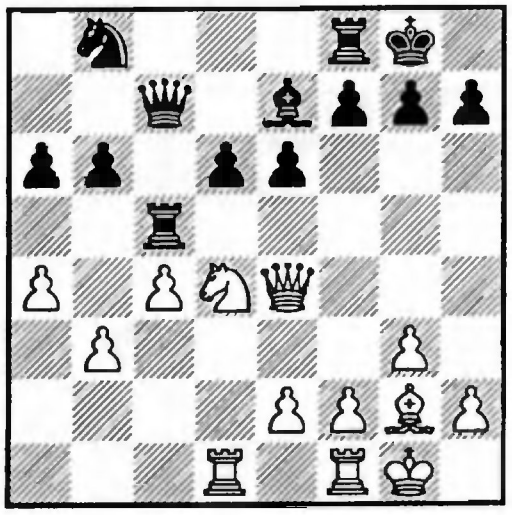
16... ♕c8 and after typical 17.a4 ♖d8 18.♕b1 ♗f6 19.e3 ♖c5 20.♖a2 ♘d7 21.♖ad2 ♗e7 22.♖c2 ♖c7 23.h3 ♘f6± all black moves looks logical, but even here white has idea to push b4−b5 and win c6 square. 24.♖dc1 ♕d7 25.b4 (Interesting was 25.♕a2± with more preparation for b4−b5) 25... e5 26.♘e2 d5! If black plays this move in right moment he can hope for equality especially because white pawn on b4 is also weak. 27.cxd5 ♖xc2 28.♕xc2 ♘xd5 29.♖d1 ♕e6?! (Correct was 29... ♕c7 30.♕xc7 ♘xc7 31.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 with clear equality.) 30.♗xd5 ♖xd5 31.♖xd5 ♕xd5 32.♕c8+ ♕d8 33.♕xa6 ♗xb4 34.♕b5 ♗c5 35.♘c3± with clear advantage for white who won game. Queen+knight are better than queen+bishop while black has weak pawn on b6 which is one more plus for white. Meier−Spoelman, Bundesliga 2006;

12... ♗e7 13.♘e4 ♗xe4 14.♕xe4 ♖a7 15.♘d4 ♖c7 16.b3 ♖c5 17.a4

After couple typical moves we came to position where white rook is on f1

instead of a1 like in line with 12.♖fd1. Different situation can appear if white tries to push f4–f5 in some moment, in that case white rook on f1 is better than on a1.

17... ♕c7



This move is not logical but I wanted to show difference between ♖ad1 and ♖fd1. Now white plays 17... h6?! 18.f4! ♖e8 19.f5± and black is in big problems. Also this idea is good because we saw that on 9.♗g5 I also gave suspicious reaction with immediate 9... h6 and motive which |^I gave in this line can be played in this line.

18.♖d2!?N

Until now it was played 18.e3 ♖c8 19.♖d2 ♘d7 20.♖fd1 and after 20... ♕b8 21.h4 ♗f8 22.♘xe6! ♘f6 23.♘xc5 ♘xe4 24.♘xe4⩲ +/– white had huge compensation and better position and went on win. Izoria) – Aroshidze, Tbilisi2000

18... ♔h8

This move is not a mistake but it looks weird. Black is defending against threat ♘xe6, but with the move in the game it looks like he does not want to put most solid setup with g6 at some point.

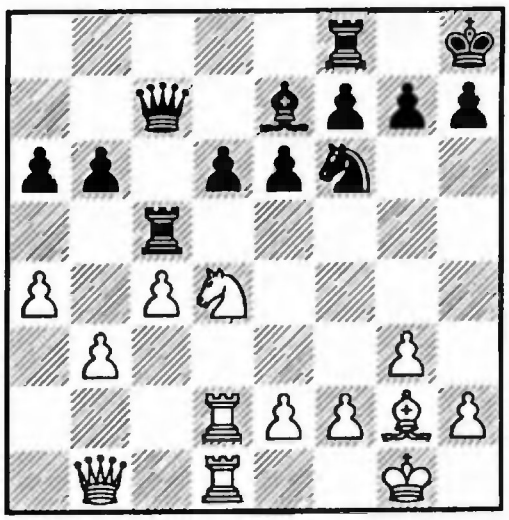
18... ♖e8 19.e3± would not change caracter of position, but it looks more natural reaction than move in game.;

18... ♘d7? would be premature because of 19.♘c6 (19.♘xe6 fxe6 20.♕xe6+ ♖f7 21.♗d5 ♖xd5 22.♕xd5± is also better for white.) 19... ♗g5 Only way to defend against ♘xe7+. (19... ♘f6 20.♘xe7+ ♕xe7 21.♕b7 ♕xb7 22.♗xb7±) 20.f4 d5 21.cxd5 exd5 22.♘e7+ ♗xe7 23.♕xe7 ♘f6 24.♕xc7 ♖xc7 25.♗xd5 ♘xd5 26.♖xd5± and white is pawn up. On 26... ♖c3 there is 27.♖f3!

19.♕b1±

White is simply following his plan. It seems to me that white is simply better in this setup and whole line with 9... a6.

19... ♘d7 20.♖fd1 ♘f6



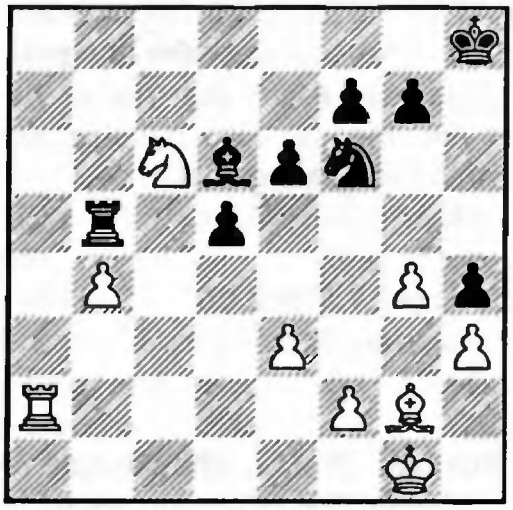
21.e3

after move in the game white is still much better.

31... axb5 32.axb5 ♕b7 33.♕a6 ♖a8 34.♕xb7 ♖xb7 35.♖a2

White does not want to defend pawn o b5 and he is playing on domination. Simpler was 35.♗f1 ♘e4 36.♖a2 ♘xd2 37.♖xa8± and black has no time for 37... ♘xf1+ 38.♔g1 ♘d2 39.♖xf8+ ♔h7 40.♖b8!+− and after next Ne5 b−pawn should decide game.

35... ♗d6+ 36.♔g1 ♖xa2 37.♖xa2 ♖xb5



38.♖a7!

Interesting move. White is ready to give another pawn on b−line for activity. Now pawn on h4 is weak and black king is unsafe.

38.♗f1 ♖b7 39.b5± was another option.

38... ♖b6

Alternative was 38... ♗xb4 39.♗f1 ♖b6 and here white should play 40.♘e5! (40.♘xb4 ♖xb4 41.♖xf7 ♔g8 and on 42.♖e7 black can play active 42... ♘e4 43.♗d3 (43.♖xe6 ♖b1 44.♔g2 ♖b2=) 43... ♔f8 44.♖c7 ♘g5! 45.♔g2 ♖b2= and black holds position.) 40... ♔g8 41.♘xf7 ♘h7 42.♘e5± and despite equal material black has plenty of weaknesses and his position is still worse.

39.♘d8 ♔g8

Preparing trick.

39... ♗xb4 40.♘xf7+ would be tranposition to 38... ♗xb4

40.g5

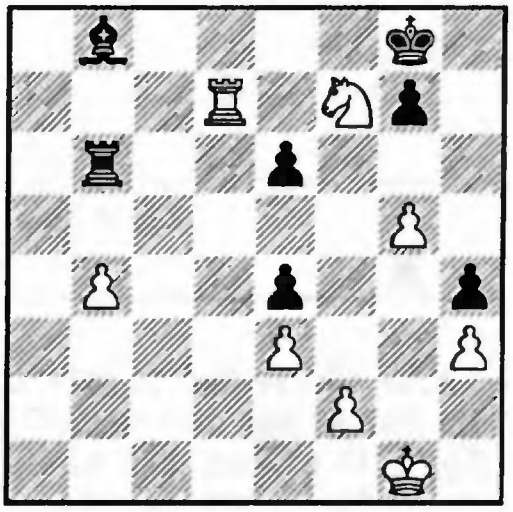
Only move but enough for win.

Big mistake would be 40.♘xf7?? ♗b8! and white is losing knight.

40... ♘e4?!

Better was 40... ♘e8 but after 41.g6 fxg6 42.♘xe6 ♗b8 43.♖e7 ♘f6 44.♗f1± white is also very close to win.

41.♗xe4 dxe4 42.♘xf7 ♗b8 43.♖d7+−



White has decisive advantage. He will lose b−pawn but for that time he will take pawn on e6 and his win will be easy because all black pawns and king are weak.

43... ♔h7 44.♘d8 ♖xb4

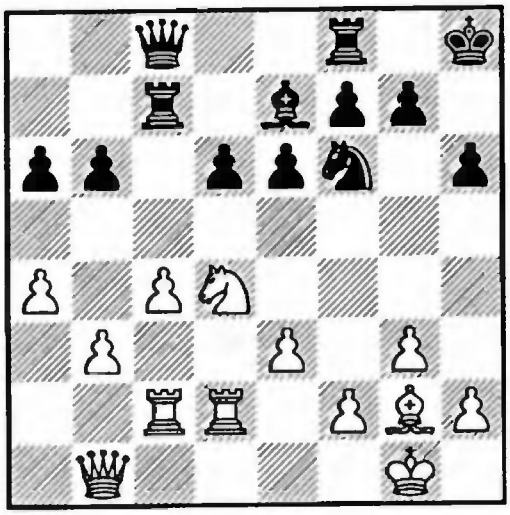
White could defend against d5 by playing 21.♖c2± follow with next e3 and same plan as in the game.

21... ♕c8

Passive move which shows that black does not have clear plan. Now his counter play is not big like it would be after break in centre.

We already conclude that it was last moment to try with 21... d5!. It looks that white would save some advantage after 22.cxd5 (22.♗f1 dxc4 23.♗xc4 ♕b7 24.♗d3 with idea b4–b5 to take control over c6 square. 24... a5!± /= with good chances to equalize game.) 22... ♘xd5 23.♘e2 ♘f6 24.♕d3 a5! 25.♘d4 ♖d8 26.♕e2 ♕c8± /= but with precise moves black will hold his position.

22.♖c2 ♖c7 23.♖dd2 h6



24.h3!

Very nice move which is beginning of plan with taking control over c6 square. Of course white could play 24.♕a2 with idea b4–b5, but plan in game looks much nicer.

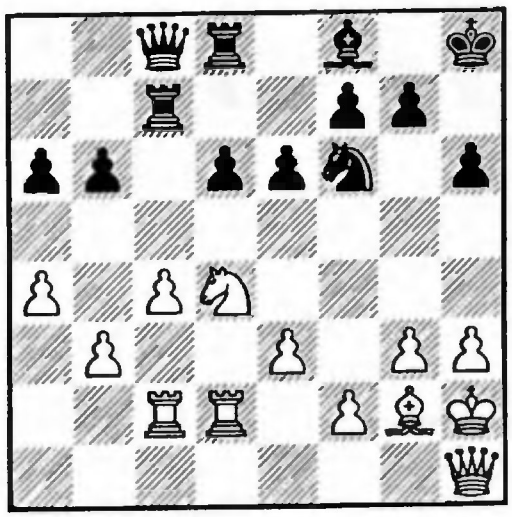
24... ♖d8?!

24... ♖e8 would not change much. White plays 25.♔h2± with same plan as in the game.

25.♔h2 ♗f8

Black plays all schematic moves and waiting, but he overlooked next idea

26.♕h1!±



Already here white is clearly better. Black will lose one more tempo after ♘c6 because his rook o d8 will be attacked by knight.

26... ♖e8 27.♘c6 h5

Only try to get some counter play because white pieces on kingside are misplaced at this moment. Still this looks slow.

28.b4

Clinching his knight on c6.

28... h4 29.g4 b5

Desperation. Black wants to free his position even if he needs to give pawn for that.

30.cxb5 d5 31.♕a1

More precise was 31.♕f1!± when white defends his pawn o b5. Anyway

There is no hope for black after 44... ♔g6 45.♖b7 ♖xb7 46.♘xb7 ♔xg5 47.b5 ♗a7 48.♘d6 ♔f6 49.♘xe4+ ♔e5 50.♘c3+−

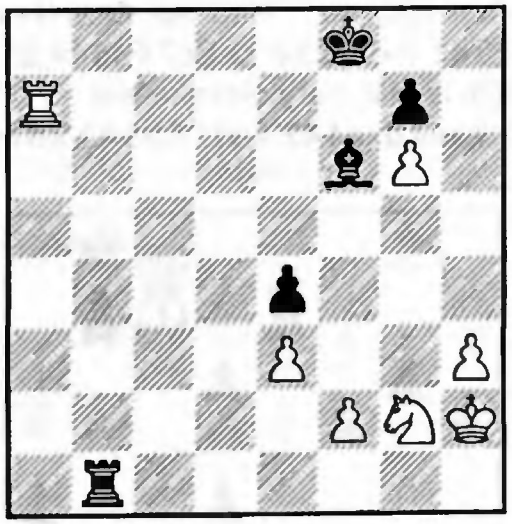
45.♘xe6 ♗e5 46.♖d5 ♗b8 47.♖d7 ♗e5 48.♘f8+ ♔g8 49.♘g6 ♖b5 50.♘xh4 ♗c3 51.g6

Black could resign here. With two pawns up and mate threats rest of the game was easy job for white.

51... ♗f6 52.♖a7 ♔f8 53.♘g2 ♖b1+

53... ♖g5 54.♖a8+ ♔e7 55.♖a4 ♖xg6 56.♖xe4++−

54.♔h2



54... ♗e5+ 55.♘f4 ♖b6 56.♖f7+ ♔e8 57.♖f5 ♗b8 58.♖g5 ♔e7 59.♖g4 ♔f6 60.♔g2 ♔f5 61.♘h5 ♗e5 62.♘g3+ ♗xg3 63.♔xg3 ♖b1 64.♖f4+ ♔e5 65.♔g4 ♖g1+ 66.♔h5 ♖g2 67.h4 ♔d5

And without waiting for white's move 68.♖f7 black resigned.

1-0 *[Predojevic,Borki]*

(6) [A36]

☐ **Jobava,Ba (2704)**

■ **Saric,Iv (2637)**

41st Bosna Open Sarajevo BIH (6.1), 09.05.2011

Black are missing the 9... ♗a6 and getting immediately under the positional presusure. From move 24.f4 followed by a pawn sacrifice, white are developing extremely dangerous initiative which appeared for Black like "too much to manage".

1.c4 c5 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.g3 g6 4.♗g2 ♗g7 5.e4

5.♘f3 I prefer this line more, but wanted to avoid on this day any theoretical discussions. After the game, Ivan told me, that he also didn't prepare anything special against 1. c4.

5... e6

5... d6; 5... ♘f6

6.d3 ♘ge7 7.♘ge2 b6

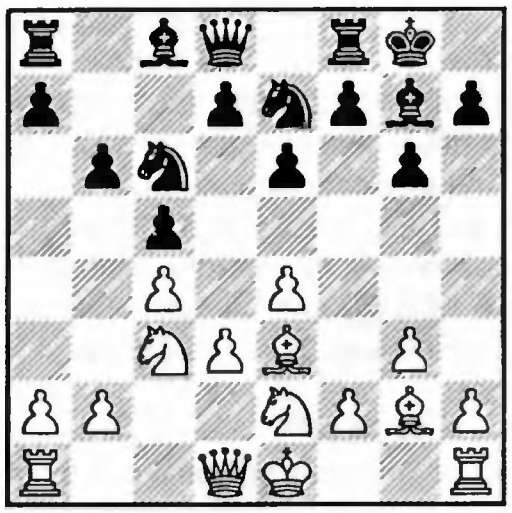
This is a rare line.

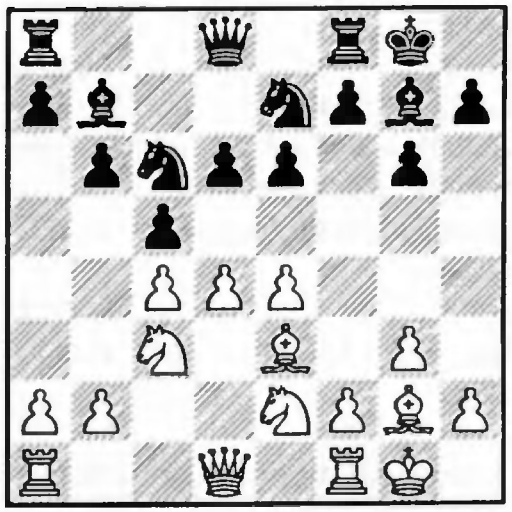
7... 0-0; 7... d6

8.♗e3

I thought, that I should use the opportunity that for a moment Black weakened the big diagonal and later decided that I should try to break through immediately with d4, in hope to win more space in the centre. To what it could lead−we would see very soon.

8... 0-0





8... ♘d4!? 9.e5 (9.0-0) 9... ♖b8 10.♘xd4 cxd4 11.♗xd4 ♘f5 12.♗e3 ♘xe3 13.fxe3 ♗xe5 14.d4 ♗g7 15.0-0 0-0=

9.d4?!

Logical, but it was my miscalculation... 9.0-0

9... d6?!

9... ♗a6 Of course this move was principle and after− 10.b3 (10.dxc5 this move is the best 10... ♗xc4 11.0-0 bxc5 12.♗xc5 ♖b8 13.♕d2 ♕a5 Black has comfort play) 10... cxd4 11.♘xd4 d5 12.exd5 exd5 I wanted take on c6 here and forgot that my pawn is on b3 and that I would just lose the game 13.♘xd5 (13.♘xc6?? ♗xc3+; 13.0-0 ♘xd4 14.♗xd4 ♗xd4 15.♕xd4 dxc4 16.♕e5 ♖c8∓) 13... ♘xd5 14.♗xd5 ♘xd4 15.♗xd4 ♖e8+ 16.♗e3 (16.♔f1 ♕xd5-+) 16... ♗c3+! 17.♔e2 ♗xa1 18.♗xa8 ♕xa8 19.♕xa1 b5 20.f3 bxc4 21.♔f2 ♕c6 22.bxc4 ♗b7 23.♕d1 ♕xc4∓

10.0-0 ♗b7

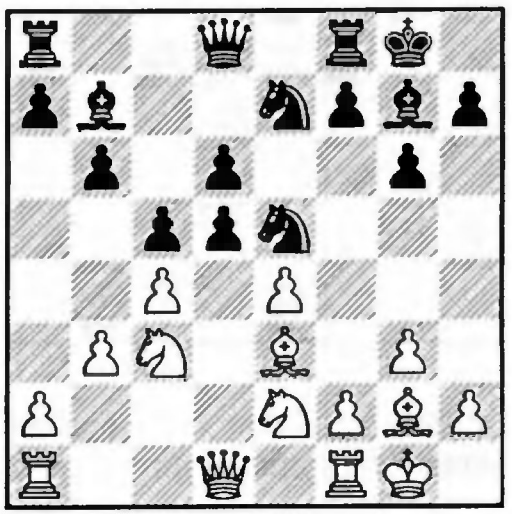
11.d5

The time has come to make a decision in the centre 11.♕d2 e5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.♘d5 ♘d4∞

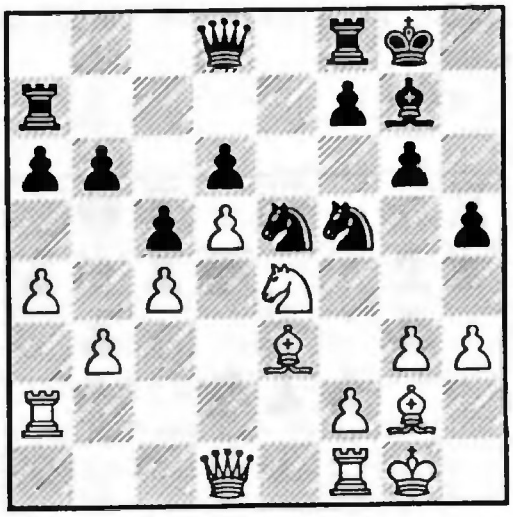
11... ♘e5 12.b3

12.dxe6 ♘xc4 (12... fxe6 13.♘f4 ♗c8 (13... ♘xc4 14.♘xe6 ♘xe3 15.fxe3 ♖xf1+ 16.♕xf1 ♕d7 17.♗h3+−) 14.♗h3 ♖f6 15.b3±) 13.exf7+ ♖xf7 14.♗c1 ♘c6 During the game I didn't like this position, because Black pieces are too active.

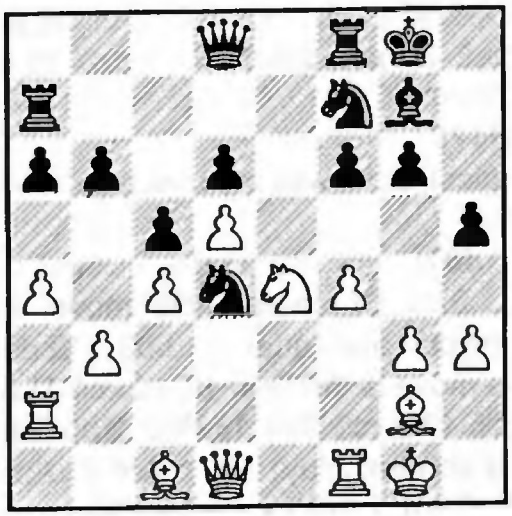
12... exd5



13.exd5!
13.cxd5? would be a positional mistake and after – 13... ♗a6 b5–b4 Black has advantage in this Benoni structure, because white light pieces are badly placed (osobenno) ♘e2.
13... a6
Useful move, controlling b5 square. 13... ♘f5 14.♗c1! ♖e8 15.a4 a6 16.♖a2!±
14.a4
Opening an important square for the rook and at the same time preventing any Black's activities on the queen side.
14... ♗c8 15.h3 h5 16.♖a2 ♖a7
I mobilized my forces and it was time to begin my active play
17.♘e4 ♗f5
Black are almost dying of non air and searching for better breading in the exchanges
18.♘2c3 ♗xe4 19.♘xe4 ♘f5

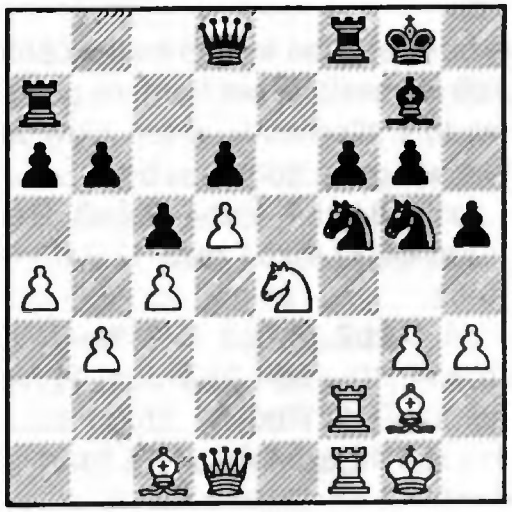


20.♗g5! Important to maximally weaken King's apartment
20... f6
20... ♕b8 21.♘f6+ ♗xf6 (21... ♔h8 22.♘xh5 gxh5 23.♕xh5+ ♔g8 24.♗e4+–) 22.♗xf6 ♘d7 23.♗a1± Against a black-squared beast hard to find any good argument.
21.♗c1 ♘d4 22.♗e3 ♘f5 23.♗c1
I was in time trouble (the time control was 1:30/40) and I wasn't sure about the variations that happened in the game.
23... ♘d4 24.f4!
I felt that this was principle and pushed the pawn!
24... ♘f7



25.f5!
After A you have to say B...
25.g4?! hxg4 26.hxg4 f5 27.gxf5 gxf5 28.♘g5 ♘xg5 29.fxg5 ♗e5∓
25... ♘xf5
25... gxf5!? 26.♘c3 ♗h6 27.♘e2! ♗xc1 28.♕xc1 ♖e8 (28... ♘e5 29.♘xd4 cxd4 30.♖xf5 ♖g7 31.♔h2 ♕e8 32.♕f4 d3 33.♖f2 ♕g6 34.♗e4±) 29.♘xd4 cxd4 30.♖af2 ♕e7 31.♕d1 ♕e3 32.♔h1! ♘h6 33.♕xh5 ♔g7 34.♖f3 ♕e2 35.g4→

26.♖af2 ♘g5



26... ♘e5!? 27.♖xf5 gxf5 28.♖xf5 b5 29.♖xh5 bxc4 30.bxc4 ♖b7 was the best way to find counterplay for Black.

27.♕d3! ♖e8

27... h4 28.♘xg5 fxg5 29.g4 ♗d4 30.gxf5+−

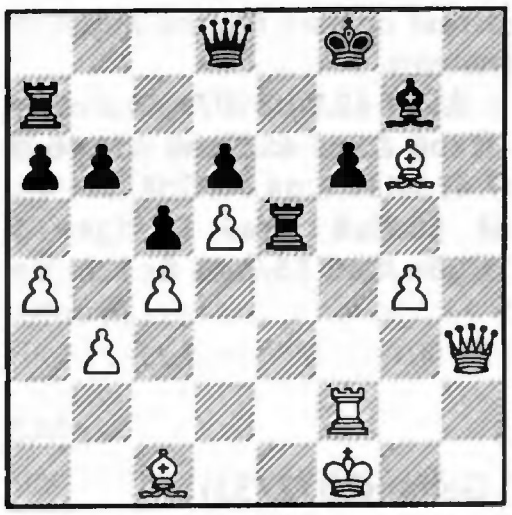
28.g4 hxg4 29.hxg4 ♘xe4 30.♗xe4 ♘g3

30... ♕e7 31.♗xf5 gxf5 32.♖xf5± White bishop is standing much better then his colleague and black pawns can became good targets for him. (32. gxf5±; 32.♕xf5±)

31.♗xg6 ♘xf1 32.♔xf1! ♖e5?

32... ♖ae7 33.♗d2±

33.♕h3!+− ♔f8



34.g5

34.♕h7! f5 35.♗f4+−

34... f5

34... ♕d7 35.♕h7 f5 36.♗b2+−

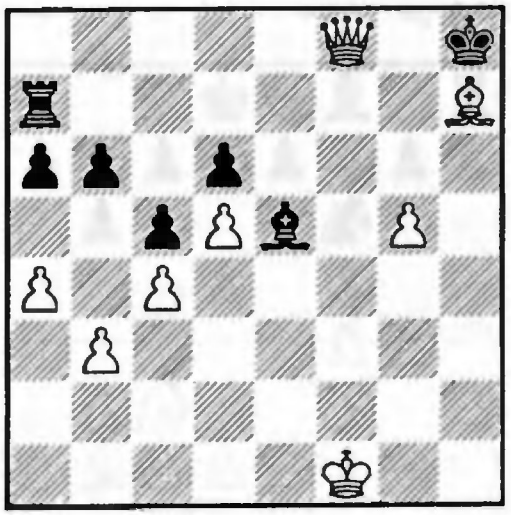
35.♗f4 ♕e7 36.♗xe5 ♗xe5 37.♕h6+

37.♕xf5+ ♔g8 38.♕c8+ ♔g7 39.♕h3! ♔g8 40.♗f5 ♕xg5 41.♗e6+ ♔g7 42.♖g2+−

37... ♕g7

37... ♔g8 38.♗xf5+−

38.♖xf5+ ♔g8 39.♗h7+ ♔h8 40.♖f8+ ♕xf8+ 41.♕xf8+



The rest doesn't require any further comments

41... ♔xh7 42.♕b8 ♖f7+ 43.♔e2 ♔g6 44.♕xb6 ♔xg5 45.♕xa6 ♔f4 46.♕c8 ♖a7 47.♕f8+ ♔g4 48.♕d8 ♔f4 49.a5 ♔e4 50.♕c8 ♖xa5 51.♕g4+ ♗f4 52.♕g6+ ♔e5 53.♔d3 ♗c1 54.♕e6+ 1-0 *[B.Jobava]*

(7) [A37]

☐ **Gelfand,B (2733)**

■ **Grischuk,A (2747)**

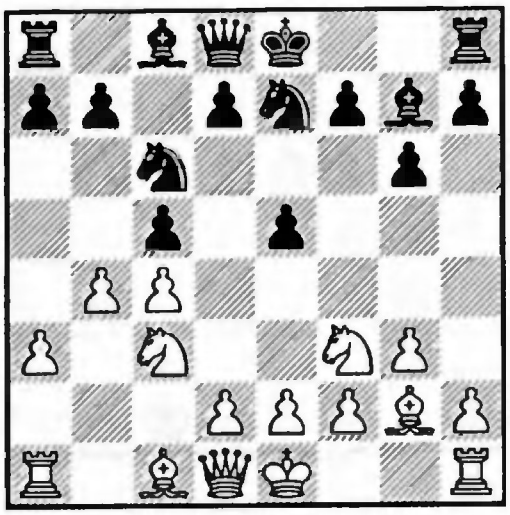
WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (3.2), 20.05.2011

Gelfand came up to this game with a new idea (9.♘g5) in the English Opening. He clearly wanted to take the initiative, but he played this big mistake with 22.♗h8. Grischuk played in a very dynamic style and the game was very spectacular.

1.♘f3 c5 2.c4

Gelfand is following the opening's idea of Kramnik, who started his white games against Grischuk with 1.c4.

2... ♘c6 3.♘c3 e5 4.g3 g6 5.♗g2 ♗g7 6.a3 ♘ge7 7.b4



An interesting idea which is putting fire on the board.

7... d5

The best reaction to fight for the center. 7... d6 is possible, but from my point of view, this alternative is too slow and White will get a good position.

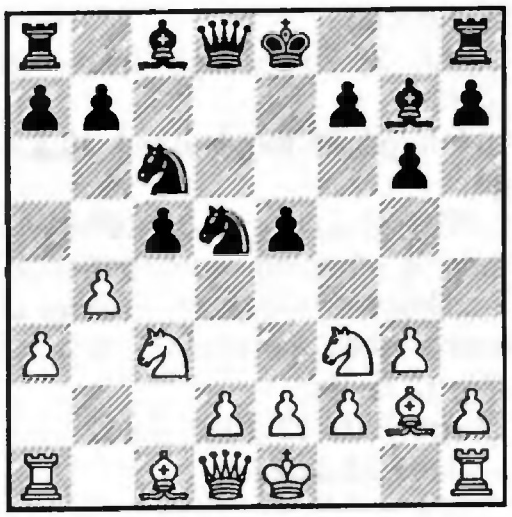
7... cxb4 8.axb4 ♘xb4 9.♗a3 ♘ec6 10.♘d5 e4 11.♘xb4 exf3 12.♗xf3 0-0 13.0-0±;

7... d6 8.♗b2 (8.♖b1 f5!? 9.e4N 0-0 10.0-0 f4 (10... fxe4 11.♘g5±) 11.bxc5 dxc5 12.♘d5 ♕d6 13.♗b2±) 8... f5 9.d3 cxb4 10.axb4 ♘xb4 11.♕b3↑

8.cxd5

8.bxc5 0-0 9.0-0 dxc4 10.♖b1∞ Georgiev–Jobava 2008

8... ♘xd5



9.♘g5N

9.♘xd5 ♕xd5 10.♗b2 0-0 11.0-0 e4 and Black's position looks nice, Solomon(2349) – Avrukh (2610) 2009

9... ♘c7

9... ♘xc3 10.dxc3 ♕xd1+ 11.♔xd1 Leads to a pleasant endgame for White. 11... 0-0 (11... f5 12.♗d5 cxb4

13.axb4 e4 14.♖a3 ♘d8 15.h4±) 12.♔c2 ♗f5+ 13.e4 ♗d7 14.♗e3 b6 15.♖hd1 ♖fd8 16.♗f1±

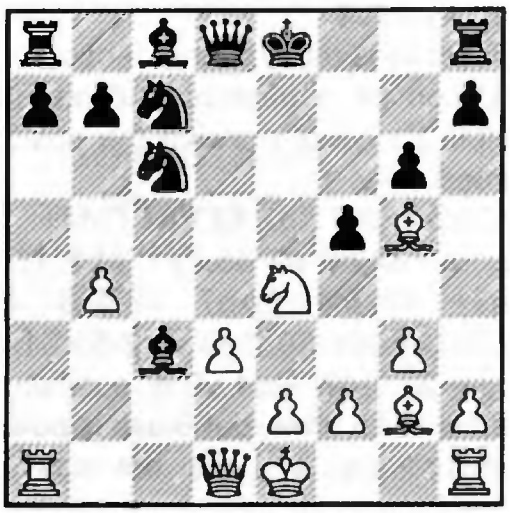
10.d3 cxb4 11.axb4 e4

After this move, the position is getting very complicated. Grischuk is winning a piece but a strong initiative is coming on the Black's king...

11... 0-0 12.♖b1 ♘e6 13.♘ce4 a5 14.bxa5 ♖xa5 15.0-0±

12.♘gxe4 f5 13.♗g5 ♗xc3+

13... ♕d4?! 14.e3 ♕xb4 15.♗f6 0-0 16.♖a4 ♕b2 (16... ♕b6 17.♗xg7 ♔xg7 18.♕a1±) 17.♘d5 ♘e5 (17... ♗xf6 18.♘exf6+ ♖xf6 19.♘xc7 ♖b8 20.0-0±) 18.♖b4 ♕a3 19.♗xe5 ♗xe5 20.♖a4 ♕b2 21.♘d2 ♘xd5 22.♗xd5+ ♔g7 23.0-0±



14.♔f1! ♕d4 15.♘xc3

15.♗f6 ♗xa1 (15... fxe4 16.♗xd4 ♗xd4 17.e3 ♗xa1 18.♕xa1 0-0 19.♗xe4±) 16.♗xd4 ♗xd4 17.♘d6+ ♔e7 18.♘xc8+ ♖axc8 19.e3 ♗b6 20.♕b3 ♖hd8∞ I think the position is unclear but I will prefer the black side.

15... ♕xc3 16.♗f4

Now Grischuk has 2 choices 16... ♘b5 or 16... ♘e6. The first one leads to an unclear position and the second one leads to an equal position..

16.b5?! ♘d8 (16... ♘xb5 17.♖c1 ♕e5 18.♖xc6 bxc6 19.♗xc6+ ♗d7 20.♗xa8±) 17.b6 ♘b5 18.♖c1 ♕g7∓ Black's coordination is not at his best! but I can't see how White can continue the attack.

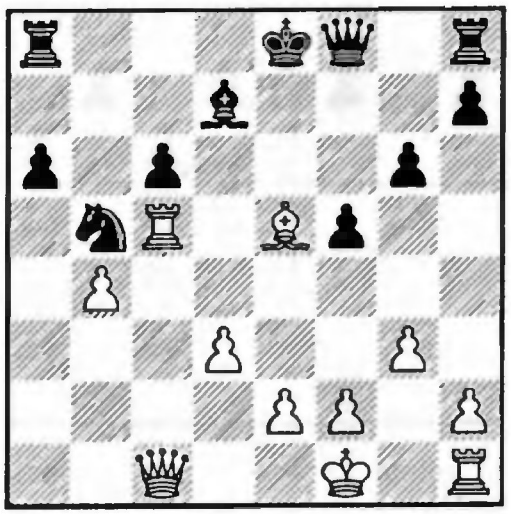
16... ♘b5

In my opinion, the best choice. The Russian player is keeping the pressure on the board and Gelfand needs to play accurately to stay in the game.16... ♘e6 17.♖c1 ♕xb4 18.♖xc6 bxc6 19.♗xc6+ ♔f7 20.♗xa8 ♘xf4 21.gxf4 ♗e6 22.♗f3 ♖c8=

17.♖c1 ♕f6 18.♖c5 a6 19.♗xc6+

It's time to eliminate this knight who is controlling an important square on e5.

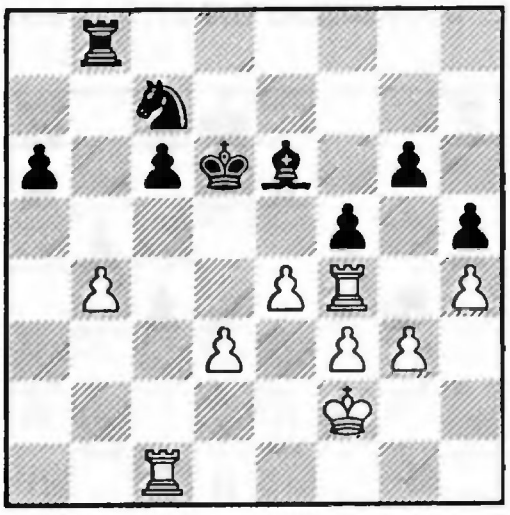
19... bxc6 20.♗e5 ♕f8 21.♕c1 ♗d7



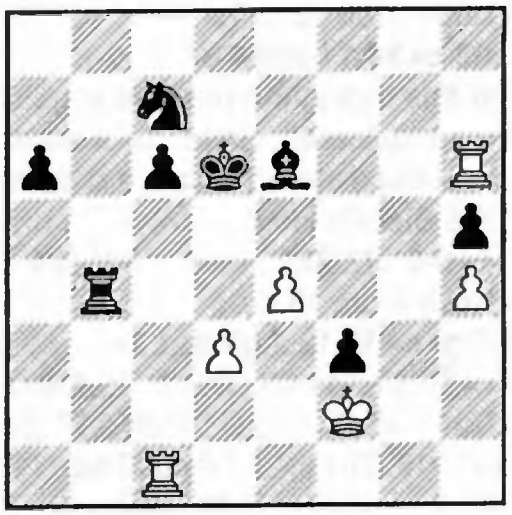
22.♗xh8?

I cannot understand this move, the white bishop in e5 is wonderful, and White can continue the attack with 22.

♕c4 or the aggressive 22.♖xc6.
22.♕c4 h5 (22... ♔e7 23.♕h4+ ♔e8 24.♕c4 ♔e7 25.♕h4+=; 22... ♖g8?? 23.♗f6+−) 23.♔g2 ♖h6 24.♗f4 ♖h7 25.♖xc6 ♕f7 26.♕c5 ♘d4 27.♖b6 ♘e6 28.♕e3⩲; 22.♖xc6!? ♗xc6 23.♕xc6+ ♔e7 24.e4 ♖d8 25.♔g2 ♕e8 26.♕c5+ ♔f7 27.exf5 ♖g8 28.♕c4+⩲
22... ♕xh8 23.♕e3+?!
A strange move, the Black's king wants to go on f7 anyway. Also White cannot push the pawn e2 now.... From my point of view, Grischuk is taking the lead in the game!
23.h4 h5 24.♔g2 ♔f7 25.♖e1 ♘d4 26.♕c3∞
23... ♔f7∓ 24.♖e5 ♕f8 25.h4 h5 26.♕f4 ♕d6 27.♔g2 ♔f6 28.♖e4 ♕xf4 29.♖xf4 ♗e6 30.♖c1 ♔e7 31.f3 ♔d6 32.♔f2 ♖b8 33.e4 ♘c7

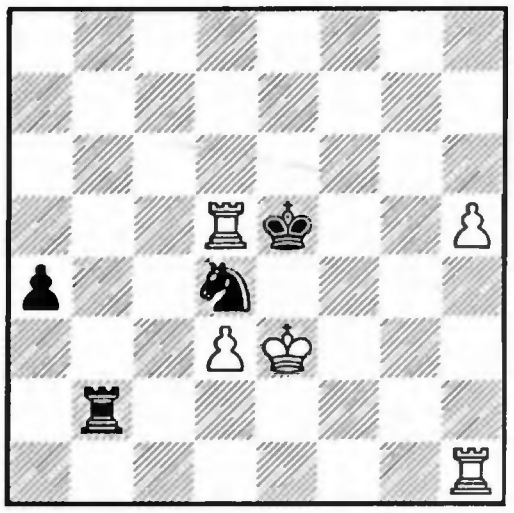


34.g4!
Gelfand understood that it's time to open the board for his Rooks.
34... fxg4 35.♖f6
35.fxg4 ♗xg4 36.♖f6+ ♘e6 37.♖c4 ♖g8 38.♔e3 g5 39.hxg5 ♖xg5∓
35... gxf3 36.♖xg6 ♖xb4 37.♖h6



37... a5?!
37... ♖b3 38.♔xf3 ♖xd3+ 39.♔f4 c5∓
38.♖xh5 a4 39.♖hc5 ♗d7 40.♔xf3 ♘e6 41.♖5c4
This move is really weird, because the Rook on c4 is passive and also the simple ♖a5 was drawing the position immediately.
41... c5 42.h5 ♖b2 43.♖h1 ♘d4+
43... a3 44.h6 a2 45.♖a1 ♗b5 46.h7 ♘g5+ 47.♔f4 ♘xh7 48.♖c3 ♘f8 49.♖a3 ♘e6+ 50.♔e3 ♖h2 51.♖1xa2 ♖h3+ 52.♔d2 ♘d4 The position is maybe still a draw, but Black is putting pressure on, and it's not easy to defend.
44.♔e3 ♗e6 45.e5+ ♔xe5 46.♖xc5+ ♗d5 47.♖xd5+

www.chess-evolution.com



47...♔xd5= 48.h6 ♖e2+ 49.♔f4 ♘e6+ 50.♔g3 ♘f8 51.h7 ♘xh7 52.♖xh7 a3 53.♔f3 ♖e1 54.♖a7 ♖a1 55.♔e3 a2 56.♖a5+ ♔c6 57.♔d4 ♔b6 58.♖a8 ♔b7 ½-½ *[S.Maze]*

(8) [A37]

☐ **Grachev,B (2669)**

■ **Sasikiran,K (2676)**

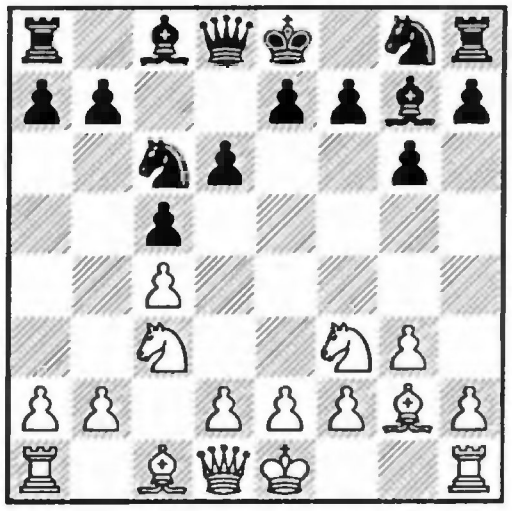
3rd Lublin GM Lublin POL (1), 15.05.2011

In following game Sasikiran tried to improve one of the rare lines in English Opening which starts with 6... ♘h6. He deviated from game McShane–Carlsen, London 2010 by playing a novelty 12... ♗g7N. White's reaction was very good and he went into better and afterwards winning position. Last moves were probably played in time–trouble and this part of the game wasn't on highest level. For us is relevant that white had better position whole game and black's novelty didn't change evaluation of current line.

1.c4 c5 2.♘c3 g6 3.g3

This move order is suggested in Marin's books about English Opening. White wants to avoid Hedgehog variation or Double Fiancé to in English Opening so he waits with ♘f3. On other side white is quitting from the idea to play early d4 (for example 3.♘f3 and on 3... ♗g7 4.d4) which would lead probably into Maroczy system in Sicilian (if white plays e4) or main English Opening (if white plays fiancé to). After early 3.g3 black can choose more setups.

3... ♗g7 4.♗g2 ♘c6 5.♘f3 d6



Waiting move. Black still didn't choose setup he will play.

In connection with the idea in the game would be move 5... ♘h6 and now main line for white is 6.h4 where white uses the fact that he still didn't castle. After (Here 6.d4?! is worse since after 6... cxd4 7.♗xh6 ♗xh6 8.♘xd4= black doesn't have problems with knight o c6 as in the game.) 6... d6 white plays 7.d3! with next h5 in good moment for white. (7.h5 is main line here); Another

idea is 5... ♘f6 where white plays 6.d4 cxd4 7.♘xd4 0-0 8.0-0 and we are in main line of English Opening.

6.0-0 ♘h6

Black avoids main line after 6... ♘f6 7.d4. With the last move he holds control over d4 square and his next move is ♘f5. Idea with h4 for white doesn't have sense since he made castle, but this is not his only possibility to play against ♘h6.

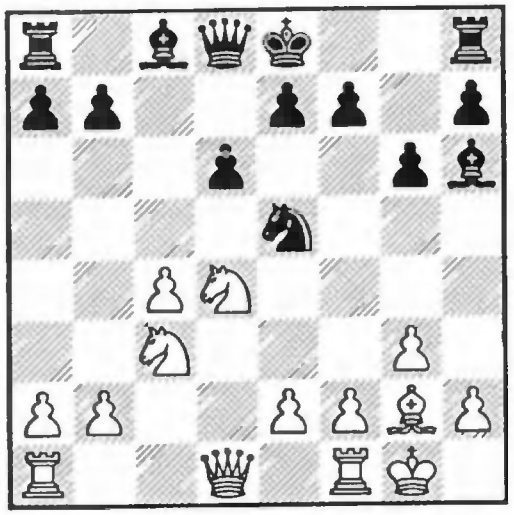
7.d4

More passive is 7.d3 where black occupies d4 square with 7... ♘f5 with good counterplay.

7... cxd4 8.♗xh6 ♗xh6 9.♘xd4

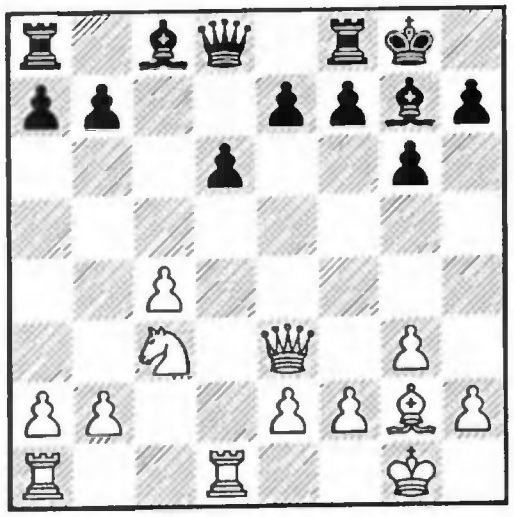
This is critical point of the line with 6... ♘h6. White gave dark squared bishop, but he got advantage in development and pressure over diagonal h1-a8.

9... ♘e5



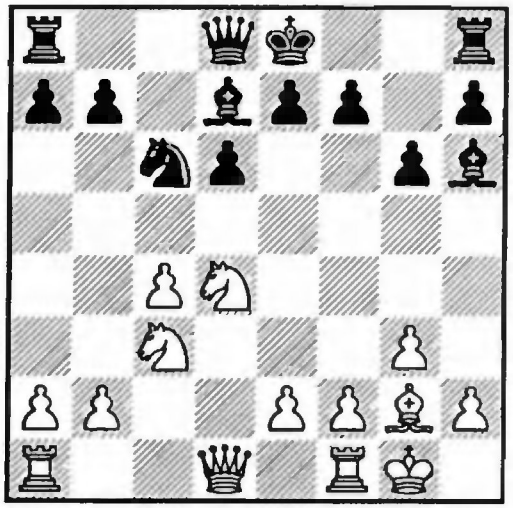
Black follows the newest fashion in this setup. He does not want to lose time on defending knight or changes on d4. Even it was played by GM Magnus Carlsen, this move does not make pressure on white pieces and it is not best option for black.

Most solid reply is 9... ♘xd4 10.♕xd4 0-0 11.♖fd1 ♗g7 where white plays 12.♕e3 with idea c5. Black should try to defend with active (12.♕d2 allows 12... ♗e6 13.♗xb7 ♖b8 14.♗d5 ♗xd5 15.cxd5 ♕a5 16.♖ac1 ♖fc8 17.♖c2 ♖c4 18.♖dc1 ♖bc8 19.e3 ♖8c5⩲ with good compensation for black. Peschke–Evdokimov, Travemuende (op) 2009)

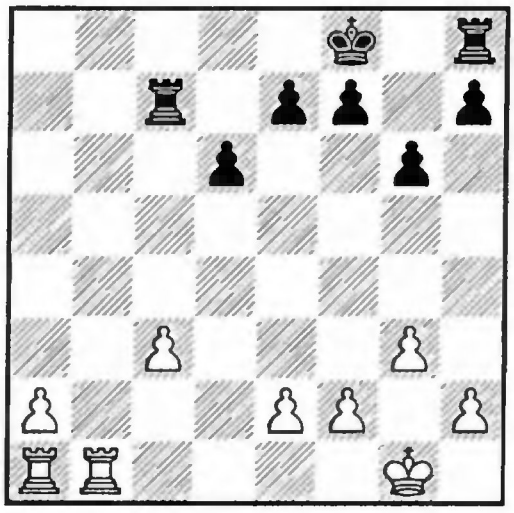


12... ♗e6!? (In most of the games black decided for 12... ♗xc3 what represents only way to stop c5. After 13.♕xc3± or even 13.bxc3!? white has small advantage.; 12... ♗d7 13.c5 ♗c6 14.cxd6 exd6 15.♗xc6 bxc6 16.♖ac1± and black has problems. Konopka–Neubauer, Austria (tch) 2007) 13.c5 ♗xc3 14.bxc3 ♕c7 15.cxd6 exd6 16.♖ab1 ♖fb8 17.♖b2 a5! 18.♖db1 (Possible improvement here could be 18.♕d4!?) 18... d5 19.♕d4 ♖a6 20.♗xd5 (20.♖b5 ♖c6 21.♗xd5 ♗xd5 22.♖xd5 ♖xc3 23.♖d7 ♖c1+ 24.♖xc1 ♕xc1+ 25.♔g2 ♕c6+ 26.e4 b5⇄)

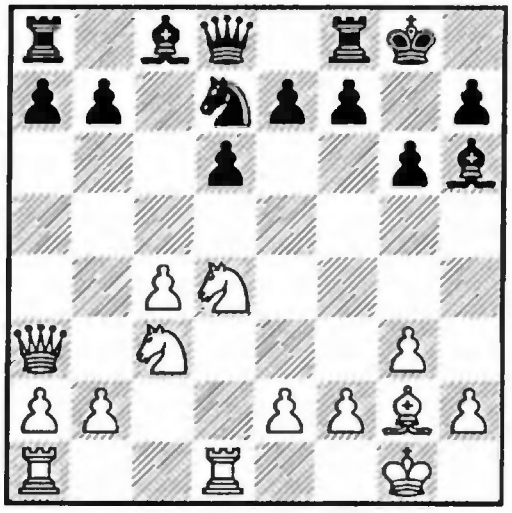
20... ♗xd5 21.♕xd5 ♖c6 and black was able to hold position: 22.♔g2 b6 23.♕d4 ♖d8 24.♕e3 1/ 2-1/2 Stokke–Ostenstad, Norway (tch) 2011. Besides the fact that black held a draw, white's position is preferable.;
Most played move here is 9... ♗d7



and key move for white is 10.c5! ♗g7 (10... dxc5 11.♘xc6 ♗xc6 12.♗xc6+ bxc6 13.♕c2) 11.♘xc6 ♗xc6 12.♗xc6+ bxc6 13.♕a4 (On 13.cxd6 black would have time for 13... ♗xc3! 14.bxc3 ♕xd6= with equality.) 13... ♗xc3 (13... ♕d7 14.cxd6 ♗xc3!? (14... exd6 15.♕e4+± and black king is unsafe. In next moves weaknesses on d6 and c6 will be attacked.) 15.bxc3 ♕xd6 16.♖fd1 ♕c7 17.♖d4 0-0 18.♖ad1± and thanks to domination over d–line white got a long–term advantage.) 14.♕xc6+ ♔f8 15.bxc3 ♖c8 16.♕a4 ♖xc5 17.♕xa7 ♕c7 18.♕xc7 ♖xc7 19.♖fb1!



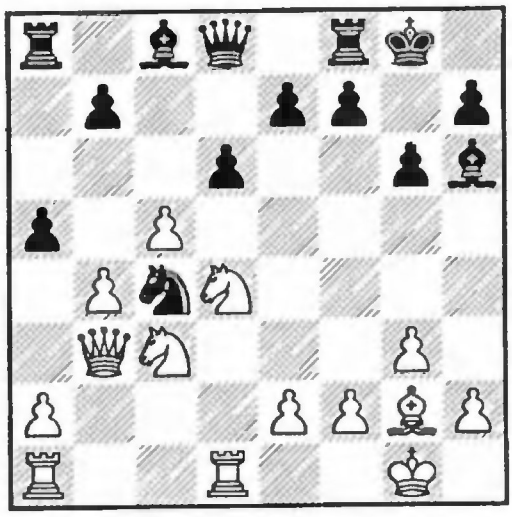
19... ♔g7 Best defense for black is a fast blockade of an a–pawn. That gives time to white to defend the c3 pawn. Following endgame is in white's favor 20.a4 ♖a8 21.♖a3 ♖c5 22.♖b4 ♔f6 23.♔g2 ♔e6 24.h4 h5 25.♔f3 ♖ac8 26.♖bb3 ♖f5+ 27.♔e3± and white was clearly better in game Marin – Illescas Cordoba, Sanxenxo 2004
10.♕b3 0-0 11.♖fd1±
White continues with development. With last move he prepares typical break c5.
11... ♘d7 12.♕a3!



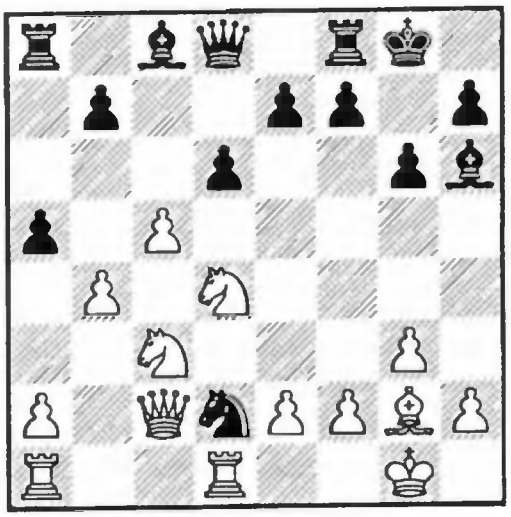
Elegant move which increases the pressure on queenside. White's position is preferable, but black tries with a novelty:

12... ♗g7N

Until now there was just one game and black went for 12... a5. Here white won beautiful game with original idea: 13.b4!? but possible improvement for black is 13... ♘b6!N (In the game black played 13... ♖a6 14.b5 ♖a8 and he was worse after: 15.e3 a4 16.♖ab1 ♗g7 17.♘e4 ♕b6 18.♘c6! ♖e8 19.♘b4 f5?! This is weakening kingside and lightsquares but what else black should play? (19... ♕a5 20.♘d5↑ followed by next c5 or even b6.) 20.♘c3 (It was possible to play 20.♘d5 ♕d8 21.♘g5 ♘f6 22.♘f4± and black cannot stop next Ne6 with much better position for white.) 20... ♕c5 21.♘xa4 ♕a7 22.♘a6! Nice idea. Black has to take and after 22... bxa6 23.b6 ♘xb6 24.♖xb6 ♖b8 25.c5!± with huge advantage for white. McShane-Carlsen, London 2010) 14.c5 ♘c4 with idea on 15.♕b3



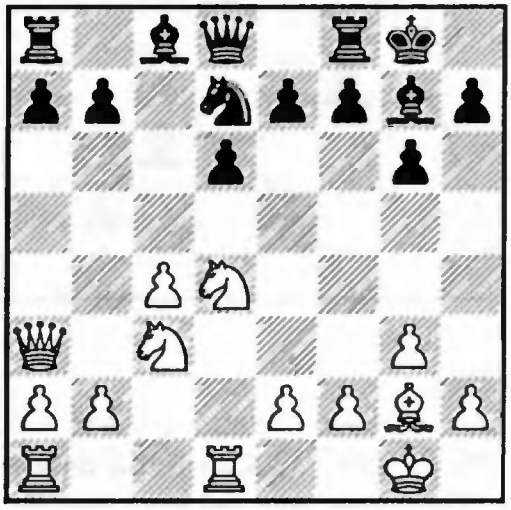
15... ♘d2!. After natural (On 15... axb4 white takes over the initiative with 16.♘d5 ♘a5 (16... dxc5 17.♕xc4 cxd4 18.♕xd4 ♗g7 19.♘f6+ ♗xf6 20.♕xd8 ♖xd8 21.♖xd8+ ♔g7 22.♖c1 ♗c3 23.a3!? bxa3 24.♗d5 a2 25.♗xa2 ♖xa2 26.♖xc8± with huge advantage for white.) 17.♕xb4 ♘c6 18.♘xc6 bxc6 19.♕h4 cxd5 20.♕xh6 e6 21.e4! dxe4 22.cxd6↑ His d-pawn is very dangerous.) 16.♕c2 black has (16.♕d5 e6 17.♕xd6 axb4 18.♘cb5 ♘c4 19.♕xd8 ♖xd8 leads to forced draw after 20.c6 bxc6 21.♘xc6 ♖xd1+ 22.♖xd1 ♖xa2! 23.♘e7+ ♔g7 24.♘xc8 b3! and the b-pawn will cost white one piece. 25.♘cd6 ♘d2 26.♘c3 ♖c2 27.♘a4 b2 28.♘xb2 ♖xb2= with draw.)



16... dxc5 (16... axb4 17.♘d5 dxc5 18.♕xc5 e5 19.♘b3 ♘xb3 20.axb3 ♖xa1 21.♖xa1 ♗e6 22.♕xb4 ♗xd5 23.♖d1! ♕c7 24.♖xd5±) 17.♘b3 cxb4 (17... ♗f5 18.♘e4 cxb4 is transposition to 17... cxb4 18.♘e4 ♗f5) 18.♘e4 ♗g4! (18... ♗f5 19.e3! (19.♘bxd2 ♖c8 20.♕a4 ♗d7 21.♕b3 ♗e6 22.♕f3

♗g7⇄) 19... ♕b6 20.♖xd2± and after complications, white stayed with a material advantage.) 19.♘exd2 ♗xe2 20.♖e1 (20.♗xb7 ♗xd1 21.♖xd1 ♖a7 22.♘c4 ♕c7↑ and black should be better.) 20... ♖c8 21.♕e4 ♗d3 22.♕xe7 a4∞ with an unclear game.

As we see black has interesting option with 13... ♘b6!N where he gets good game thanks to tactical and concrete play. It is worth to mention that instead of active 12.b4!? white could play simply 12. e3N+/= keeping positional advantage. In future he can push b4 (for example 12... ♘c5? 13.b4). Other idea for white is to use b5 or d5 squares to clinch his knights.



13.b4!

Similar to previous game in this line white is preparing to break through with c5. Black needs to play very concrete moves if he wants to stop it and this is why he decides to go into complications after

13... ♘b6

On 13... a5 white follows his idea with 14.c5 and it is hard to recommend something satisfying for black. For example: 14... ♘e5 15.b5! ♘c4 16.♕b3 dxc5 17.♘c6 ♘d2 18.♕c2 bxc6 19.♖xd2 ♕c7 20.♗xc6+− and white has decisive advantage.

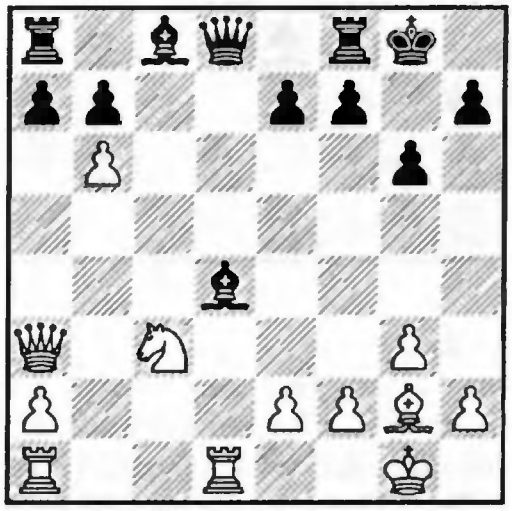
14.c5 dxc5 15.bxc5

Other option was 15.♘c6 cxb4 (15... ♕e8 16.♖d8 ♕xd8 17.♘xd8 cxb4 18.♕xb4 ♖xd8 19.♕xe7 ♗e6 20.♖d1±) 16.♕xb4 ♕e8 17.♘xe7+ ♔h8 18.♖ab1!↑ with pressure.

15... ♗xd4

15... ♘c4?? 16.♕b4

16.cxb6



16... ♗g4?!

Objectively this is not the best move for black but at least it gives hope to him that white will make a mistake.

After 16...♕xb6 17.♘d5 ♕c5 18.♘xe7+ ♔g7 19.♕xc5 ♗xc5 20.♘xc8 ♖axc8 21.♗xb7 black would stay with pawn down in endgame and without any active counter play.

17.♗xb7 ♗xf2+ 18.♔g2

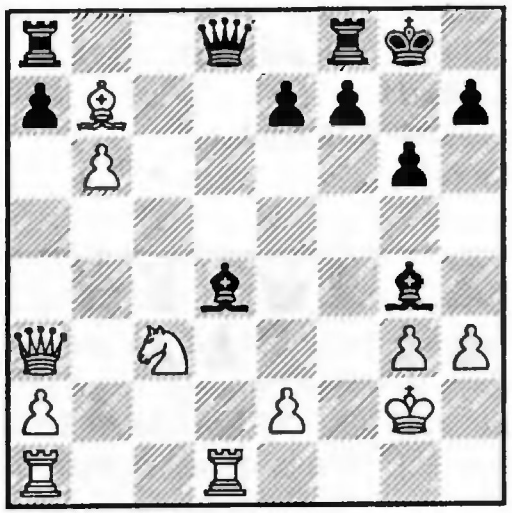
Worse is 18.♔h1?! axb6 19.♕xa8 ♕xa8 20.♗xa8 ♖xa8± and black would have good chances for a draw.

18... ♗d4

18... ♕xb6 19.♗xa8 ♖xa8 20.♘d5+−

19.h3!?

Computer gives simple 19.♖ab1 ♕d7 20.♗xa8 ♖xa8 21.b7 ♖b8 22.♕a6± as best for white, but move in the game is also good.



19... ♗e6

After forced 19... ♗f5 20.♗f3 ♕xb6 21.♘d5 ♕b2 22.♘xe7+ ♔h8 23.♕a4! ♖ae8 (23... ♗c5 24.♘xf5 gxf5 25.♗xa8 ♕xe2+ 26.♔h1 ♖xa8 27.♕c6+−) 24.♘xg6+ fxg6 25.♕xd4+ ♕xd4 26.♖xd4± white has a pawn more.

20.♖ab1 ♖b8 21.♗f3

Easier was 21.♖xd4 ♕xd4 22.bxa7 ♕d7 (22... ♗xh3+ 23.♔xh3 ♕d7+ 24.♔g2 ♖xb7 25.a8♕+−) 23.axb8♕ ♖xb8 24.♗f3 ♖xb1 25.♘xb1 ♗xh3+ 26.♔h2+−

21... ♖xb6 22.e3 ♗xh3+ 23.♔h2

23.♔xh3? is mistake due to 23... ♕c8+-+

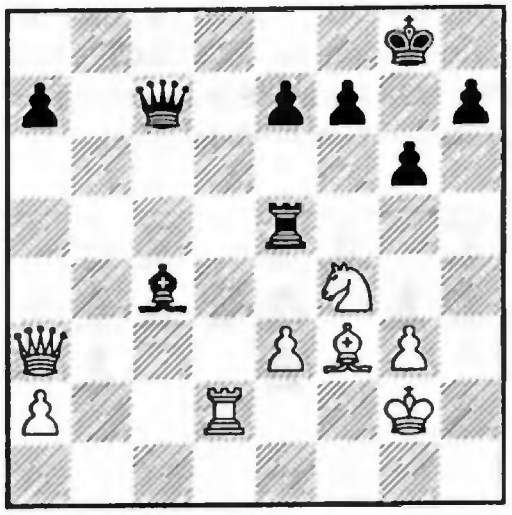
23... ♖xb1 24.♘xb1 ♗f5 25.♖xd4± /+−

After interesting tactical fight white won a piece. Black has two pawns for a knight and white pawns are not connected, but this is not enough to save game.

25... ♕c7 26.♘c3 ♖b8 27.♖d2 ♗e6 28.♘e2 ♖b5 29.♘f4

White improved position of his pieces and black is lost.

29... ♖e5 30.♔g2 ♗c4



31.♕c1

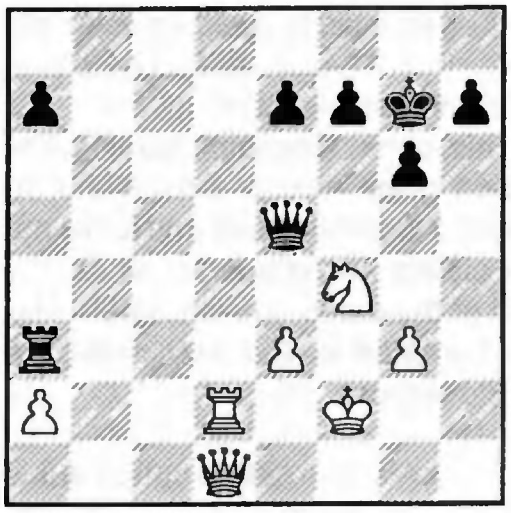
More precise was 31.♔f2 ♕a5 32.♕xa5 ♖xa5 33.♗d5 ♗xd5 34.♘xd5 e6 35.♘c3+− and white should win this endgame.

31... ♖c5 32.♕d1

/\ ♖d8

32... ♕e5 33.♔f2 ♖a5 34.♗d5 ♗xd5 35.♘xd5 ♔g7 36.♘f4 ♖a3

Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs



More resistance was given 36... g5! 37.♘d3 ♕e6 38.♕e2 ♖f5+ 39.♔g1 ♕e4± but also white is clearly better in this position.

37.♕f3 e6 38.♖c2 ♕a5 39.♕e2 e5 40.♘g2 ♕d5

Last few moves by white were not on highest level. Here game finished with 1-0 so I assume that black lost on time. Final position is still better for white but his position is worse than after 24.♖xd4+−.

1-0 *[Predojevic,Borki]*

(9) **[A37]**

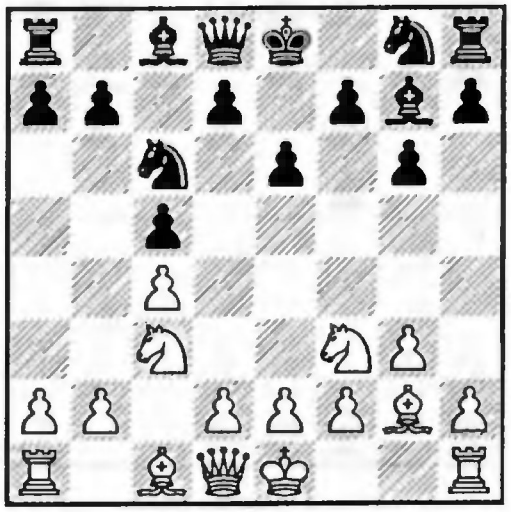
□ **Predojevic,B (2617)**

■ **Melkumyan,H (2580)**

41st Bosna Open Sarajevo BIH (9.1), 12.05.2011

This game was played in last round of Open tournament "Bosna 2011" in Sarajevo. Melkumyan and me were leaders, but as win was 3 points, both of us needed to win to take first place. Game went into typical English setup where black chose most flexible line with 4... e6. I was very happy to see it over board because I could employ rare move 6.h4!?. As this wasn't Melkumyan main repertoire he mixed plans playing early 9... a5 and 10... e5. I found very nice reply 11.♘h2! which secured me advantage. After mistake with 19.b4?! I lost advantage but game remained complicated. Until end of game lot of mistakes were made on both sides (it was caused by time−trouble and importance of this game) and game finished as draw. In my opinion this should be very interesting game for players who likes to play English opening.

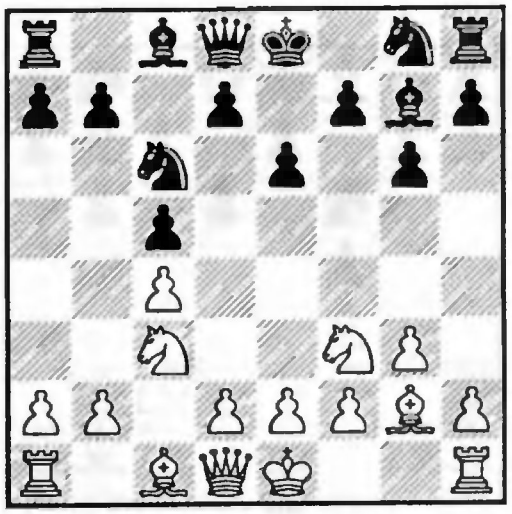
1.c4 c5 2.♘c3 g6 3.g3 ♗g7 4.♗g2 ♘c6 5.♘f3 e6



This is most flexible setup for black. Other popular lines are 5... e5 where white usually fighting for d5 square which is weak after last blacks move or 5... ♘f6 where white plays 6.d4 fighting for advantage in centre.

Also there is possibility for black to play 5... d6 and after 6.0-0 e6 with idea to transpose to main line avoiding

6.d4 line which is going to forced draw if white wants. Also black avoids line which was played in this game. This move order was played few times by GM Alexander Grischuk. Here white can choose 7.e3 since black already played 5... d6 and it is not good to answer on break d4 with d5 (black would have tempo less than in normal variation). 7... ♘ge7 8.d4 0-0 9.b3 (9.d5 is premature due to 9... ♘a5 10.♕d3 exd5 11.cxd5 a6 12.a4 ♗d7∓; 9.♖b1) 9... ♘f5∞ and position is unclear and there is not so many games, so it is worth of exploring for both sides.



6.h4!?

Few weeks before tournament I spend some time checking line with 5... e6 and I was very happy with this original move. It has been played just in 22 games.

I will write well-known draw which white can do after 6.d4 cxd4 7.♘b5 d5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.0-0 ♘ge7 10.♗f4 (10.♘bxd4 0-0 11.♗e3 ♘f5 12.♘xf5 ♗xf5 gives black good counter play.) 10... 0-0 11.♘c7 ♖b8 12.♘b5 ♖a8 13.♘c7 ♖b8 14.♘b5=;

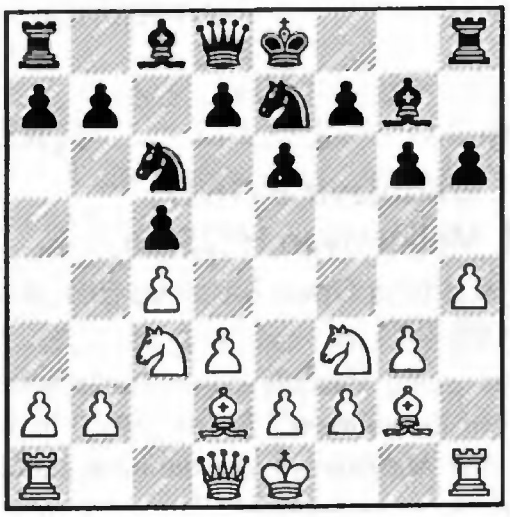
In his book "English Opening Vol.3" Marin gives next line for white: 6.d3 ♘ge7 7.♗g5 h6 8.♗d2 and in his notes he claims advantage for white. I was not of the same opinion as Mr. Marin, so I wanted to find new options with white pieces.

6... h6

Normal reaction. Other option is 6... d5 7.h5 ♘ge7 but this does not look so good for black. White can play simple 8.d3 b6 9.♕a4!?± with pressure. After next cxd5 white queen will go on king side increasing pressure on black's position.

7.d3 ♘ge7 8.♗d2

If we compare this position with Marin line white is tempo up (h4 move) and this helps white in all positions when black tries to play with d7–d5. This was my main idea, since black now has to choose setup with d6.



8... d6N

Novelty according to database, but this is very logical move.

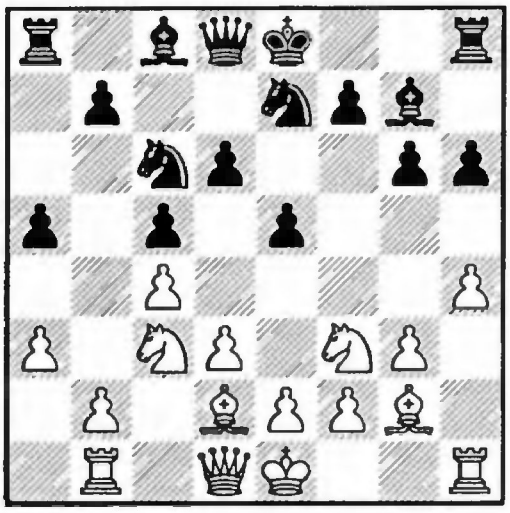
On 8... d5 white continues with 9.a3 and here I will show one old game: 9... ♕d7 10.♖b1 b6 11.b4 cxb4 12.axb4 ♗b7 13.0-0 dxc4 14.dxc4 ♘e5 15.♘xe5 ♗xe5 and here white could play better than in game Cebalo–Djuric, Donji Milanovac 1979: 16.♗f4! ♕xd1 17.♖fxd1 ♗xf4 18.♗xb7 ♖b8 19.♗a6 ♗e5 20.♘b5± with obvious advantage for white.

9.a3 a5

This came as a surprise for me. Usually, black does not react with this move.

Normal was 9... b6 and here it is interesting that after 10.b4 ♗b7 11.h5 g5 12.♖b1 ♘d4 13.0-0 ♘xf3+ 14.exf3!?∞ and white will play f4 in future.

10.♖b1 e5?!



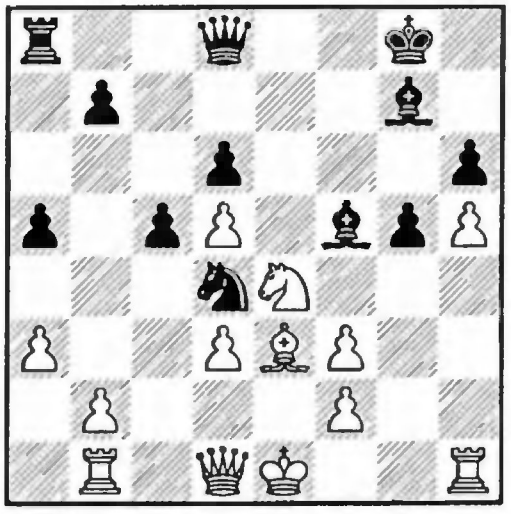
Another surprise for me. This is not usual with setup with e6. White has few tempos more than in normal line after immediately 10... e5: 10... 0-0 11.♕c1 ♔h7 12.h5 g5 13.♗xg5 hxg5 14.♘xg5+ ♔h8.

11.♘h2!

Very nice move. White cannot transfer knight to d5 from square d2 because he already played ♗d2, but one more plus of 6.h4!? is that square h2 is free for this maneuver.

11... ♗e6

During game I was worried about 11... 0-0 12.♘f1 f5 13.♘e3 f4 14.gxf4 exf4 15.♘ed5 f3! and it looks that black will have very good compensation. Further analysis does not prove it: 16.♗xf3 ♖xf3 17.exf3 ♗f5 (17... ♘f5 18.h5 g5 (18... ♘h4 19.hxg6 ♘e5 20.♔f1! ♘exf3 21.♗e3 ♗g4 22.♕b3± and white king is safe: 22... ♕d7 23.♕b5! with clear advantage for white.) 19.f4±) 18.h5 g5 (On 18... ♗xd3 white has 19.♗xh6!) 19.♘e4 ♘xd5 20.cxd5 ♘d4 21.♗e3± /~~



and despite white weaknesses black is exchange and pawn down and after break f4 in future white should be better.

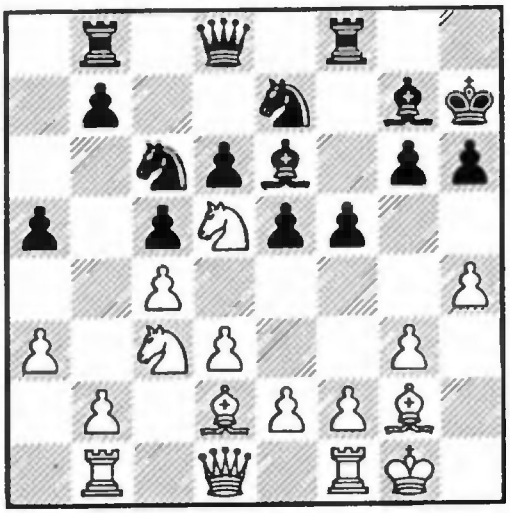
12.♘f1 0-0

Black quits fight for d5 square and this shows that white concept was good. Typical break with 12... d5 is not so good. White plays 13.cxd5 ♘xd5 14.♘e3 ♘xe3 (14... ♘de7 is met by 15.h5 g5 16.♘e4 b6 17.♕a4 ♖c8 (17... 0-0 18.♘xc5 bxc5 19.♗xc6±) 18.♘c4 0-0 19.♘ed6± and white has initiative.) 15.♗xe3 ♘d4 16.♗xb7 ♖b8 17.♗a6!? ♗b3 (17... 0-0 18.♗c4± and white is pawn up.) 18.♕d2 ♘c2+ 19.♔f1± /+/− with next ♗c4.

13.♘e3 f5 14.♘ed5±

White achieve very pleasant setup and his position is better. Only problem can be pawn o h4 since black can try with aggressive f4, when it would be better for white to have pawn on h2 which gives him chance to take with h−pawn on g3.

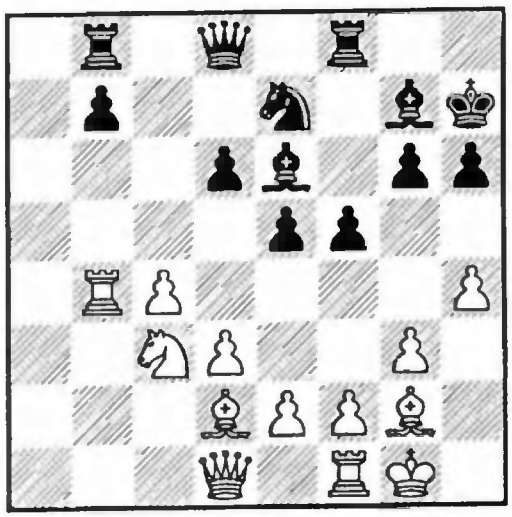
14... ♖b8 15.0-0 ♔h7



16.b4?!

Impatient reaction. Correct 16.e3!± would stop any threat connected with f4 and white would stay with pleasant advantage. Black needs to take care about break b4.

16... axb4 17.axb4 ♘xb4 18.♘xb4 cxb4 19.♖xb4



19... f4!⇄

After imprecise 16.b4?! black got good counter play thanks to this move. I remember that it was very annoying for me to play this position, especially when I realized my mistake after I played 16.b4?!.

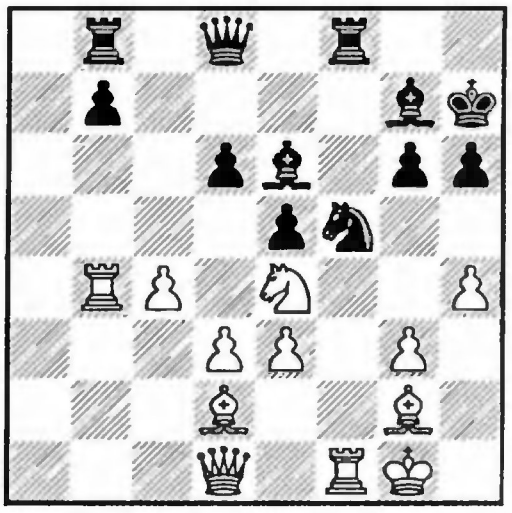
20.♘e4

Maybe better option was 20.e3 and after 20... ♘f5 white is not obliged to play 21.♘e4 with transposition into game and he can try 21.h5!? fxg3 (On 21... g5 white answer is 22.g4! ♘e7 23.exf4 gxf4 24.♖xb7 ♖xb7 25.♗xb7± with better position.) 22.hxg6+ ♔xg6 23.♕g4+ ♕g5 24.♕xg5+ hxg5 25.fxg3 ♘xg3 26.♖xf8 ♗xf8 27.♗xb7± and white has some advantage but position is reduced which gives good chances for black to hold his position.

20... ♘f5 21.e3

During game I did not see other way to continue.

21... fxg3 22.fxg3



22... b5!

Nice move which shows that black is also ambitious. Other moves would give white time to consolidate his position and after that black weakness on b7 would be main target for white.

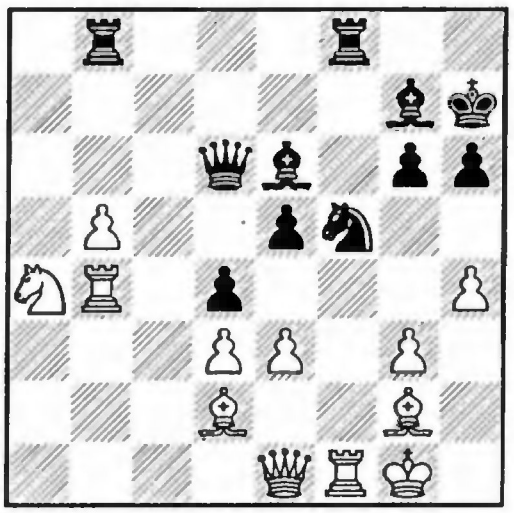
23.cxb5!?

Optimistic. White could play 23.♖xb5 ♖xb5 24.cxb5 ♕b6 25.♕e1 but after correct 25... ♕xb5! (Worse is 25... d5 26.♘c3 d4 27.exd4 ♕xd4+ (27... exd4? 28.♘a4) 28.♔h2 ♕xd3 29.b6↑ with advantage for white.) 26.g4 ♘e7 27.♖xf8 ♗xf8 28.♕f1 ♗g7 29.♘xd6 ♕a4! 30.♘e4 ♗xg4⇄ game should be finished with draw.

23... ♕e7?

Serious mistake.

Better was 23... ♕b6! 24.♕e1 d5 25.♘c3 d4 26.♘a4 ♕d6



and here white should be able to find 27.exd4 (27.h5 dxe3 28.hxg6+ ♔h8↑) 27... ♘xd4 28.♖xf8 ♖xf8 29.♕e4!? with unclear position.

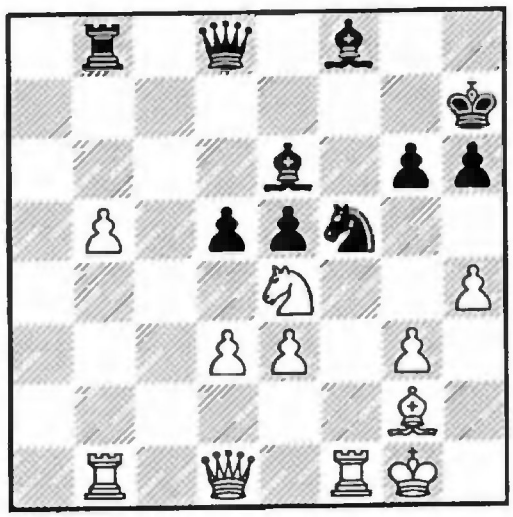
24.♖b1!± d5!

I was here already in time-trouble and my opponent chose good move from psychological view. He is making position even more complicated. After 24... ♕a7 25.♕e1 d5 26.♖a1 ♕c7 27.♖c1 ♕a7 28.♘c5± and white is better.

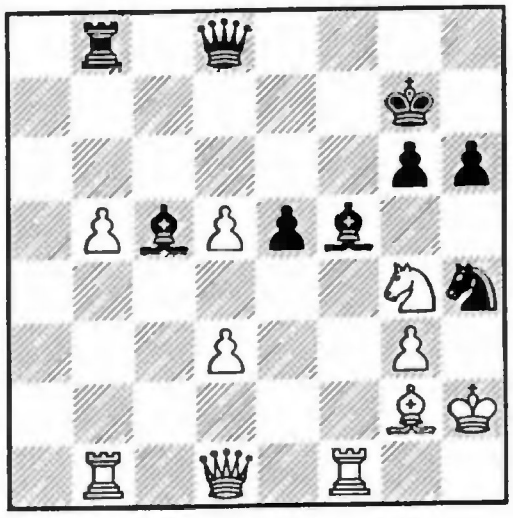
25.♗b4 ♕d8 26.♗xf8!?

This was not so precise. Simple 26.♘c5± was leading to huge advantage for white. Black can play 26... ♗c8 27.♕e1 ♖xb5 and here white has nice move 28.♘a4! ♖e8 29.♘c3± and white wins pawn or exchange

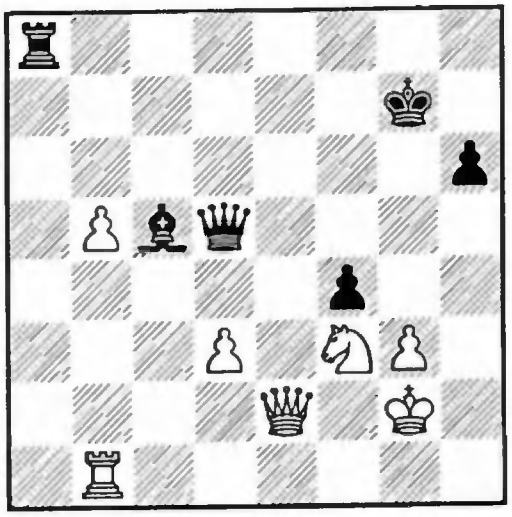
26... ♗xf8



27.♘f6+!
In my opinion only and best! I found this move despite few minutes which I had on my clock.
27.♖xf5 ♗xf5 28.♘f2 ♗c5 would give black good compensation.
27... ♔h8?
Hrant is still playing on psychological card. This is not best option for black, but I got confused here with little time on clock. After objectively best 27... ♕xf6! 28.e4 ♕g7 (28... dxe4 29.dxe4 ♖d8 30.♕e1±) 29.exf5 gxf5 30.♕f3± would lead to better position for white, but he would need to play few more precise moves to get clear advantage.
28.♘g4 ♗c5?!
Better was 28... ♗g7 but white keeps advantage after 29.♔h2 h5 30.e4 ♘xh4 31.♘e3±
29.♔h2+–
I new that my position is winning, but my problem was huge time-trouble. After few connected mistakes by me, game finished with a draw and I lost first place in Sarajevo.
29... ♔g7 30.e4 ♘xh4 31.exd5
31.♗h3+– was also winning.
31... ♗f5



32.♘xe5?
Immediatelly after the game Hrant offered me 32.♕c1!+– and black is lost.
32... ♘xg2 33.♖xf5 gxf5 34.♔xg2 ♕xd5+ 35.♘f3 ♖a8 36.♕e2 f4



37.♕e5+
Still white had winning posibilities, for example: 37.b6!+–

37... ♕xe5 38.♘xe5 fxg3 39.♔xg3?
Last mistake one move before time control. 39.♘c4± /+− should still win because black cannot stop b−pawn.
39... ♗d6!=
Forcing draw. I was very disappointed by this fact, I missed chance to win game and tournament. Game finished with draw after:
40.d4 ♔f6 41.♔f4 ♖a4 42.♔e3 ♗xe5 43.dxe5+ ♔xe5 44.b6 ♖a8 45.b7 ♖b8 46.♖b6 ♔d5 47.♖xh6 ♖xb7 ½-½ *[Predojevic,Borki]*

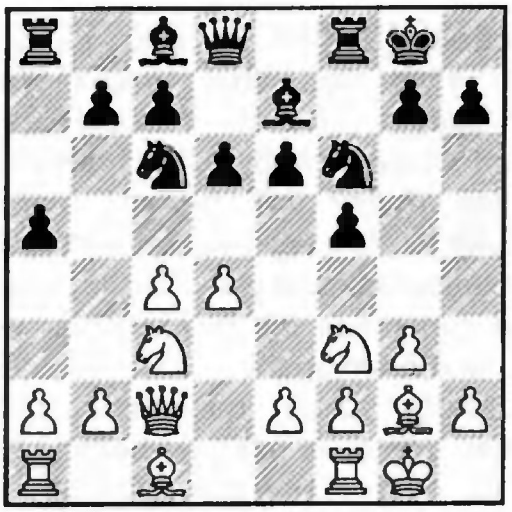
(10) [A96]

☐ **Wojtaszek,R (2721)**
■ **Williams,Simon Kim (2520)**

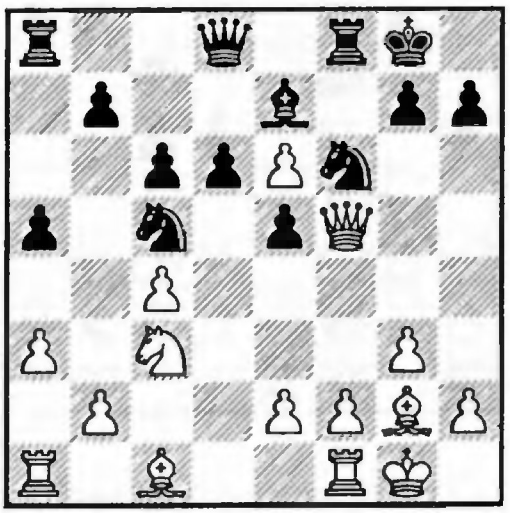
TCh-FRA Top 12 2011 Mulhouse FRA (1.1), 26.05.2011

In a main line of the Dutch variation, Wojtaszek played a rare line with 9.b3. I would recommend to simply play 9.a3, I think white should be able to have an advantage with 12.♘d5. In the game Simon Williams played the very tricky 12... ♕h5. White failed to find the refutation! The English player finished the game in a great style!

1.d4 e6 2.♘f3 f5
Simon Williams is an aggressive player, and he likes to play sharp openings like today with this Dutch Defense.
3.g3 ♘f6 4.♗g2 ♗e7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 d6 7.♕c2
7.♘c3 a5 8.♕c2 Is the more common move order.
7... a5 8.♘c3 ♘c6



9.b3?!
A rare line. The idea is to put the bishop on b2 or in a3.
9.a3 controlling the important b4 square. I would recommend to play this line, because with this tricky move 9. a3, White got a comfortable position. 9... e5 10.d5 ♘b8 11.♘g5 (11.c5 ♘a6! 12.cxd6 cxd6=) 11... ♘a6 (11... c6 12.♖d1 ♘e8 13.dxc6 bxc6 14.♘f3± Smyslov (2610)−Filipowitz (2420) 1971) 12.♘e6 ♗xe6 13.dxe6 c6 14.♕xf5 ♘c5 (14... ♘d5 15.♕h3 ♘xc3 16.bxc3 ♕c8 17.f4+−)



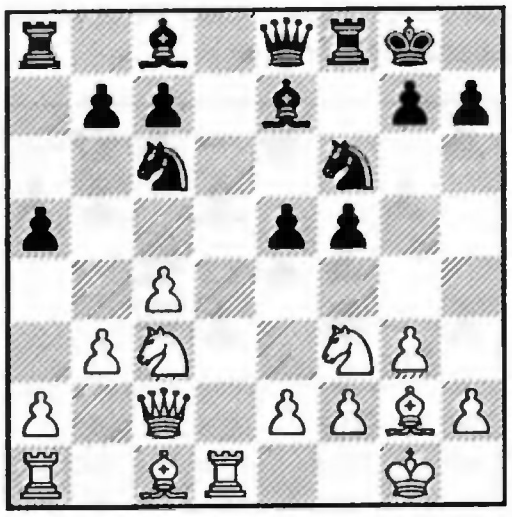
15.♗e3 (15.♕h3 is also playable for White. 15... ♕c8 16.♗e3 ♕xe6 17.♕xe6+ (17.♗xc5 ♕xh3 18.♗xh3 dxc5 19.♗e6+ ♔h8 20.♖ad1 g6∞) 17... ♘xe6 18.♗h3 ♔f7 19.♖ad1 ♖fd8± I prefer to play this position with White because we have pair of bishops, also we can break the black center with f4, and opening the "f" file.) 15... ♘d5 16.♕xf8+! Great queen's sacrifice! Now White is clearly better. 16... ♕xf8 17.cxd5± White sacrifices his queen against rook+bishop+pawn. So everything is good, and also the paw on e6 is so strong. This position is really difficult to play for Black

9... e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.♖d1 ♕e8

The idea is to put the queen on h5 and to prepare an attack against the White king.

12.♘b5

It's difficult to understand this move, it was more logical to put the knight in d5, controlling the b4 square, attacking the c7 pawn and also the bishop e7.



⌓12.♘d5! I think this is the critical move.

12... ♗d8 (12... ♕h5? 13.♘xe5!+−; 12... ♘b4 13.♘xe7+ ♕xe7 14.♕c3 ♘c6 15.♗b2 ♖e8 16.a3±) 13.♗a3 e4 (13... ♘b4 14.♘xb4 axb4 15.♗xb4±) 14.♗xf8 (14.♘d4 ♘xd4 15.♖xd4 ♘xd5 16.♗xf8 (16.♖xd5 ♖f7=) 16... ♗f6 17.♕d2 ♘b4 18.♗xb4 axb4 19.♖d1 ♗xd4 20.♕xd4 ♕e7=) 14... exf3 15.♗xg7! ♔xg7 16.exf3 ♘b4 (16... ♘xd5 17.cxd5 ♘b4 18.♕d2 ♕e5 19.♖ac1±) 17.♕c3 ♕f8 18.♕e5 (18.♗h3 ♘bxd5 19.♖xd5 c6 20.♖d3 ♗c7 21.♖ad1 ♔g6∞) 18... ♘bxd5 19.♖xd5 c6 20.♖d3 ♗b6 21.♖e1± I think white is slightly better because black has some problem to finish his development.

12... ♕h5?!N

A very strong novelty... in practice... not for theory! The English player doesn't care about his queenside! ⌓12... ♗d8!? Also interesting, of course this move is not in the Williams ⇔s Spirit but in my opinion, this is the best one.

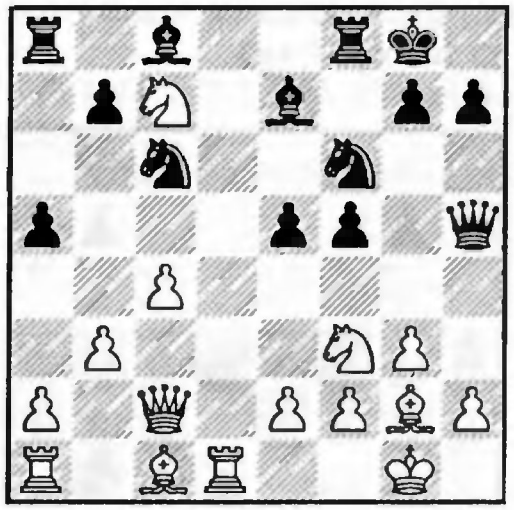
13.♗b2

a) 13... f4 14.gxf4 exf4 15.a3 ♕h5 16.♖xd8 Nice sacrifice to put some fire in the black side! 16... ♖xd8 17.♗xf6 gxf6 18.♘xc7 ♖b8 19.♘d5 ♕h6 20.♖e1∞ White is exchanging down, but the knight is d5 is very strong, black pawns f6 and f4 are weak. So, good compensation for White.

b) 13... ♕h5?! 14.♗xe5 ♘xe5 15.♘xe5 f4 (15... ♘g4 16.♘xg4 fxg4 17.♕d3±) 16.gxf4 c6 17.♘d6 ♘g4 18.♘xg4 ♗xg4 19.f3 ♗c8 20.♕e4±;

c) 13... e4 14.♘g5 ♘g4 (14... ♕h5 15.♘h3 ♘g4 16.♕d2 ♖e8 17.f3±) 15.♘h3 ♖f7 16.♘f4 e3 17.f3 ♘f2 18.♖f1 ♗g5 19.♘d5 ♘b4 20.♘xb4 axb4 21.f4±;

13.♘xc7



13... f4!

Such an interesting move, of course with computer it's easy to defend this position, but on the board against this superb attacking player Simon Williams, it's not the same!

14.♘xa8

14.♗b2? ♗c5! 15.♖d5 (15.gxf4 ♗f5 16.♕c1 ♘g4∓) 15... ♘b4 16.♕c1 ♘bxd5 17.cxd5 ♘e4∓

14... ♗c5

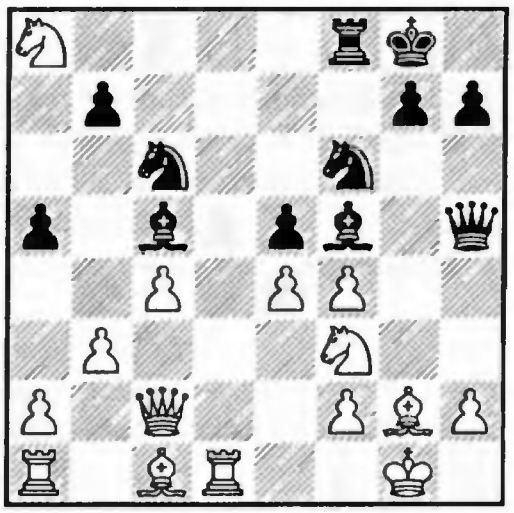
The critical position!

15.♖d5?

Aouch... Big mistake from Wojtaszek, now Black gets a super position.

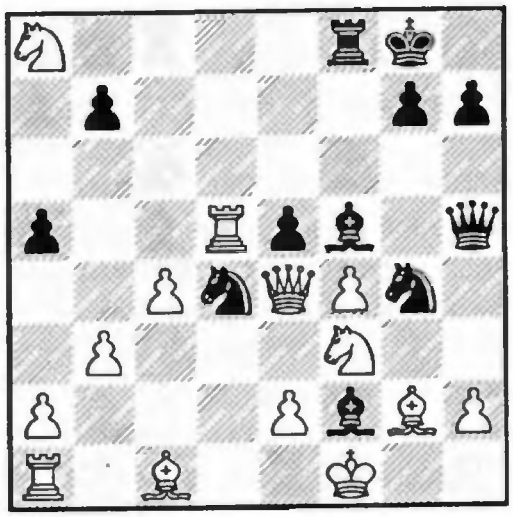
⌓15.gxf4! The winning move! It's understandable that white failed to calculate everything. The position is too messy.

a) 15... ♗f5 16.e4



A super defending move. The idea is to liberate the "e2" square for the Queen. (16.♕b2 ♘g4 17.e3 ♘xh2! 18.♘xh2 (18.♕d2 ♘xf3+ 19.♗xf3 ♕g6+ 20.♔h2=) 18... ♕xd1+ 19.♘f1 exf4 20.♗d5+ ♔h8 21.♕xg7+ ♔xg7 22.♗b2+ ♗d4 23.♗xd4+ ♕xd4 24.exd4 ♖xa8 25.♖e1 offering a pleasant endgame for White.) 16... ♗xe4 (16... ♗g4 17.♕d3 ♘d4 18.♘xd4 ♗xd4 19.♗e3+−; 16... ♘xe4 17.♗e3 ♘g5 18.♕e2+−) 17.♕e2! ♖xa8 18.♗b2 ♗f5 19.♖d5!? And the key move, this sacrifice, is good because this knight on f6 could become very dangerous and now White would be safe with his king. 19... ♘xd5 20.cxd5 ♘b4 21.♕xe5 ♕f7 22.♘g5 ♕g6 23.♗e4 ♖f8 24.h4± And white has two pawns up.

b) 15... ♘g4 16.♖d5! ♗xf2+ 17.♔f1 ♘d4 (17... ♗d4 18.h3! ♗xa1 (18... ♘e3+ 19.♗xe3 ♗xe3 20.♕c3 ♗xf4 21.h4!+−) 19.hxg4 ♗xg4 20.♘b6 ♘b4 21.♕d1 ♘xd5 22.♘xd5+−) 18.♕e4 ♗f5



19.♖xe5! ♖d8 (19... ♘xf3 20.♕d5+ ♔h8 21.exf3 ♘xe5 22.fxe5 ♕h4 23.♗f4! ♕xf4 24.♔xf2 ♖xa8 25.♔g1±) 20.♖xf5! ♘xf5 21.♕e6+ ♔h8 22.e4 ♘fe3+ 23.♗xe3 ♗xe3 24.♕f5 ♕xf5 25.exf5 ♖xa8 26.h3 ♘h6 27.♘g5± and this endgame is winning for the White.; c) 15... e4 16.♗e3! exf3 (16... ♗xe3 17.fxe3 exf3 18.exf3+−; 16... ♗f5 17.♘d4+−) 17.♗xf3 ♘g4 (17... ♗g4 18.♖d5! ♘xd5 19.♗xd5+ ♔h8 20.♗xc5 ♖xa8 21.f3+−) 18.♗d5+ ♔h8 19.♗xc5 ♕xh2+ 20.♔f1 ♘b4 21.♕e4 ♘xd5 22.♕xd5 ♘f6 23.♕f3 ♗h3+ 24.♔e1 ♖xa8 25.♔d2+− and the White King will go to b2 with an easy win.

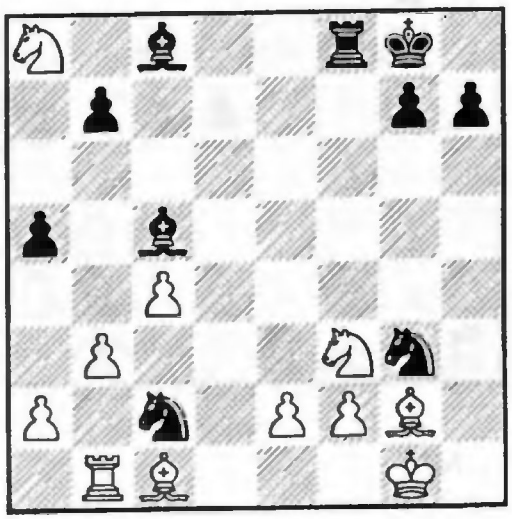
15... ♘b4!∓

Yes! the winning move, now White's position is hopeless. Here we can see the idea in the opening of this move 9. a3. This square in b4 is really important!

16.♖xe5

16.♕b2 ♘bxd5 17.cxd5 ♘g4∓ 18.e3 e4 19.♘h4 ♘xf2 Destroying the White castle! 20.♕xf2 fxe3 21.♗xe3 ♖xf2 22.♗xf2 ♗xf2+ 23.♔xf2 ♕xd5-+; 16.♕b1 ♘bxd5 17.cxd5 ♗f5 18.♕b2 ♘g4∓ with a winning attack.

16... ♘xc2 17.♖xh5 ♘xh5 18.♖b1 fxg3 19.hxg3 ♘xg3



20.♖b2?!

20.♘c7 was the only chance to survive. 20... ♗f5 21.♗d2 ♘xe2+ 22.♔h1 ♗xf2 23.♘d5 ♗c5∓ White is just one pawn down but it looks difficult to save this game with such a weak king.

20... ♗f5

And Black will take on e2 and the knight on a8.A great game from Simon Williams.

0-1 *[S.Maze]*

(11) **[B09]**

□ **Karjakin,Sergey (2776)**

■ **Ivanchuk,V (2776)**

5th Kings Tournament Medias ROU (9), 20.06.2011

1.e4

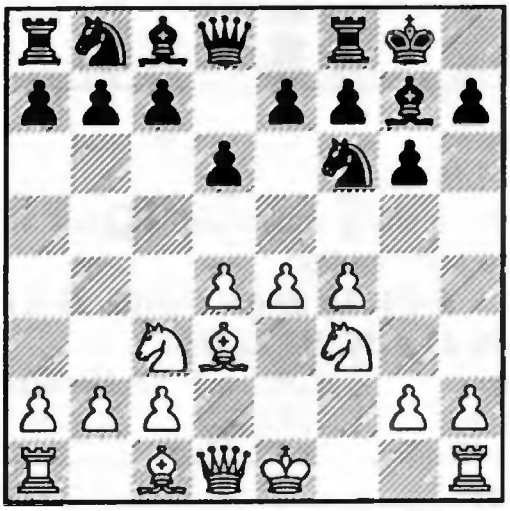
A very nice kill out of the opening by Karjakin, who has had an amazing white

colour in the last few years. After this game, it is hard to imagine that somebody will try again to play this variation with Black

1... d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 g6 4.f4 ♗g7 5.♘f3 0-0

5... c5 Is the other main move in this position

6.♗d3



6... ♘a6

6... ♘c6 A popular move here, but also here White should be better 7.e5 (7.0-0 e5∞ This is the move that Black are hoping for 8.fxe5 (8.d5 ♘e7 (8... ♘d4 9.fxe5 ♘xf3+ 10.♕xf3 ♘g4 (10... ♘d7 11.exd6 cxd6 12.♕g3 ♘e5 13.♗e3) 11.e6 ♗d4+ 12.♔h1 ♕h4 13.♕h3 ♕xh3 14.gxh3 ♗xc3 (14... ♘e5 15.♗h6 ♖e8 16.♗b5) 15.bxc3 ♘e5 16.exf7+±) 9.fxe5 dxe5) 8... dxe5 9.d5 ♘e7 10.♘xe5 c6 11.♗g5 cxd5 12.♗xf6 ♕b6+ 13.♔h1 ♗xf6 14.♘xd5 ♘xd5 15.♘c4 ♕c5 16.exd5 ♗g7 17.♕f3 b6 and Black should be doing fine.) 7... dxe5 8.fxe5 ♘h5 (8... ♘d5 9.♘xd5 (9.0-0 ♗g4 10.♗e4 ♘b6 11.♗e3 ♕d7) 9... ♕xd5 10.c3 f6 11.♕e2 (11.exf6) 11... ♔h8 12.♗e4 ♕g8 13.♗e3 ♗e6 (13... fxe5 14.d5) 14.♕b5 ♖ab8) 9.♗e3 ♗g4 10.♗e2 ♕d7 11.♕d2 ♖ad8 12.0-0-0 White is doing clearly better.

7.0-0 c5 8.d5 ♘c7

Black wants to free themselves with b5.

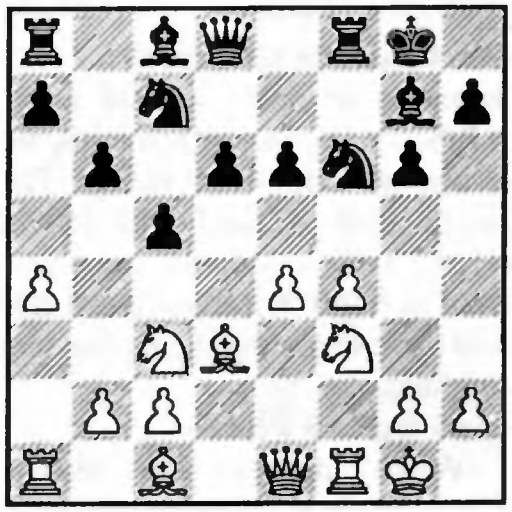
9.a4 b6 10.♕e1

White's Queen is going to h4, where White's plan could be f5, ♗h6, ♘g5.

10... e6

It is never pleasant to make such a move, but obviously Black are much too late with their very slow idea, ♖b8, a6, b5.

11.dxe6 fxe6

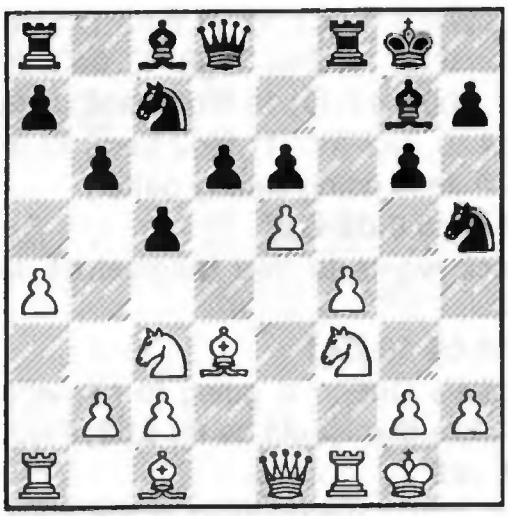


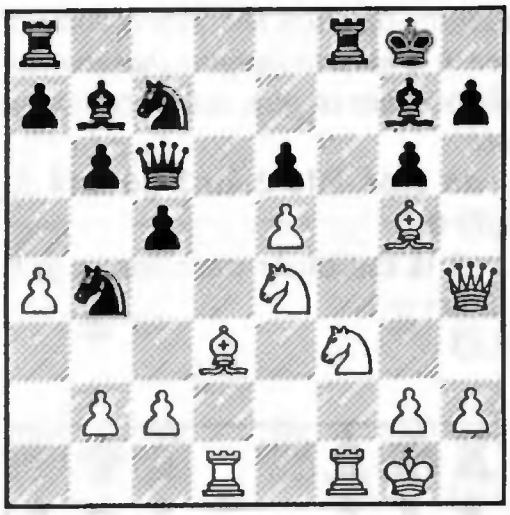
12.e5!±

A logical, good move. White are destroying the Black's pawn structure, and are making a field e4 free for their knight.

12... ♘fd5

12... ♘h5





13.f5!! Great move! (13.♘e4 c4! 14.exd6 cxd3 15.dxc7 ♕xc7 16.cxd3∞) 13... exf5 (13... gxf5 14.♗g5 ♕d7 15.♕h4) 14.♗g5 ♕d7 15.exd6 ♕xd6 16.♗e7±

13.♘e4 dxe5 14.fxe5 ♗b7?

This move is losing without a fight. But Black's position is obviously very bad anyway 14... ♘b4 15.♗g5 ♘xd3 16.cxd3 ♕d5 17.♗e7 ♖f5 18.♘f6+ ♗xf6 19.exf6+− Whites position of course is huge, but maybe still Black would have some practical chances to save the game.

15.♗g5 ♕d7 16.♕h4+−

All White pieces are standing perfect, f6 square is giving White many different ideas for the future combinations.

16... ♘b4 17.♖ad1

Bringing the last piece into the game.

17... ♕c6

18.♘f6+!

The finishing move! Small, but very nice combination.

18... ♗xf6 19.♗xg6! hxg6 20.♗xf6 ♖xf6 21.exf6 ♖f8 22.♕g5

1-0 *[A.Naiditsch]*

(12) [B12]

□ **Caruana,F (2714)**

■ **Miton,K (2619)**

TCh-FRA Top 12 2011 Mulhouse FRA (9), 03.06.2011

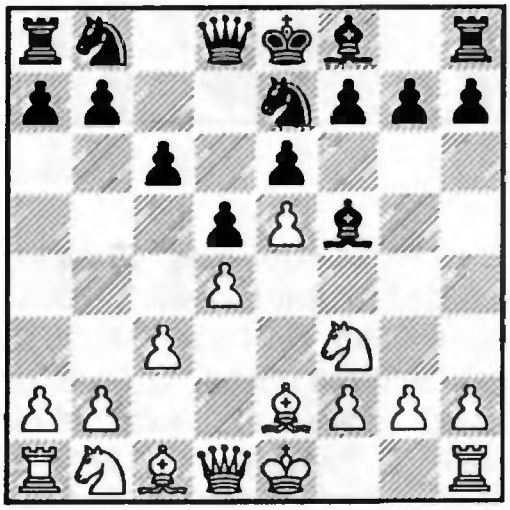
3.e5 line against Caro−Cann is lately the most popular one. White has many dif−ferent plans, so strong players very often decide to play this way because they see in this line more ways of finding new ideas. I chose my favourite system of A. Karpov 5... ♘e7. Caruana did not want to play more forced variations so he chooses the simple 6c3!? line with the idea of trying to win my white squared bishop with ♘h4. In the game I didn't solve correctly the problem of when is the best moment for playing logical c5 and finally got a worse

position. In my opinion this game shows many typical ideas so is a good example to learn more about these kinds of structures.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♗f5 4.♘f3 e6 5.♗e2 ♘e7

5... c5

6.c3!?

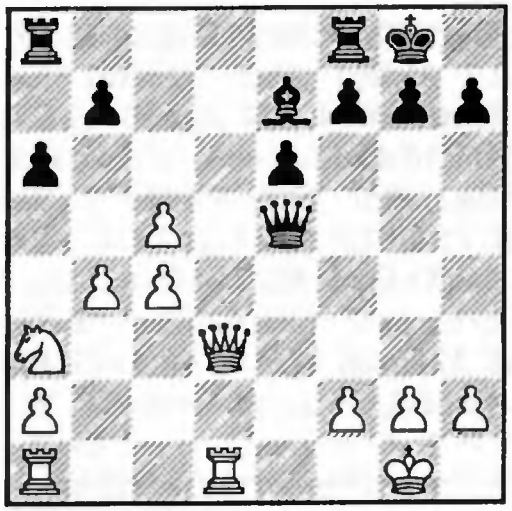


Idea is try to stop the c5 plan. Other lines are:

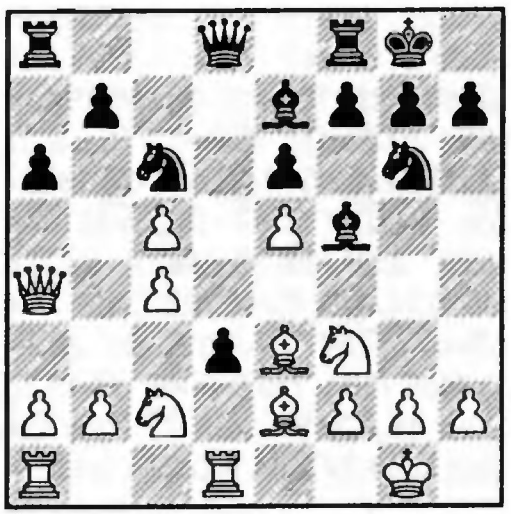
6.0-0 c5

a) 7.c4 ♘bc6 8.♘a3 a6!? (8... dxc4 also a move which been played often lately)

a1) 9.dxc5 d4 10.♕a4 (10.♕b3 ♘g6 11.♕xb7 ♕c8 12.♕xc8+ ♖xc8=) 10... ♘g6 11.♖d1 (11.b4 ♗e7 12.♖d1 d3 13.♗xd3 ♗xd3 14.♕b3 ♘gxe5 15.♘xe5 ♘xe5 16.♗f4 ♕d4 17.♗xe5 ♕xe5 18.♕xd3 0-0 probably black has enough compensation

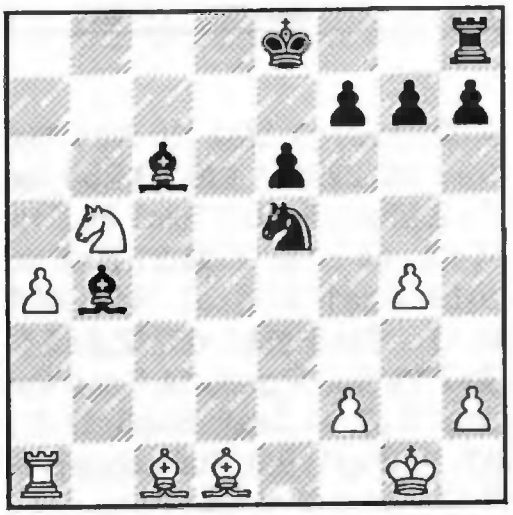


19.♘c2 (19.♕g3 ♕e2 20.♕e3 ♕xe3 21.fxe3 a5 22.♖d7 ♗f6 23.♖b1 axb4 24.♘c2 ♖fc8 25.♖xb7 ♖xc5 26.♖1xb4 g6=) 19... a5 20.a3 ♖fd8 21.♕b3 axb4 22.axb4 ♖xa1 23.♖xa1 ♖d2 24.♖f1 h6=) 11... ♗xc5 (11... d3 12.♗e3 (12.b4 ♗e7 13.♕b3 ♘gxe5 14.♘xe5 ♘xe5 15.♗b2 ♕c7 16.♗xe5 ♕xe5 17.♗xd3 ♗xd3 18.♕xd3 0-0 Transpose) 12... ♗e7 13.♘c2 0-0

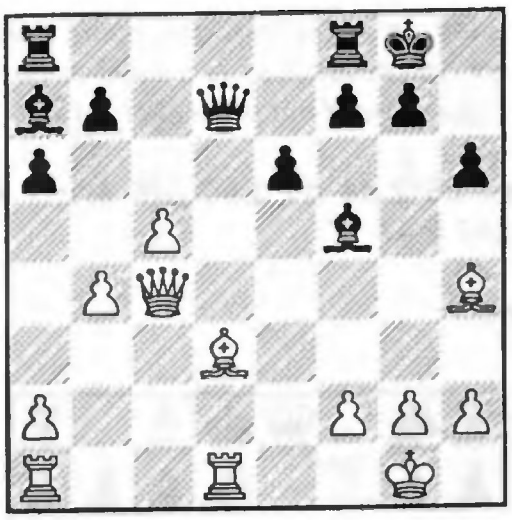


(13... ♕a5 14.♕xa5 ♘xa5 15.♗xd3 ♗xd3 16.♖xd3 ♘xc4 17.♗d4 ♘f4

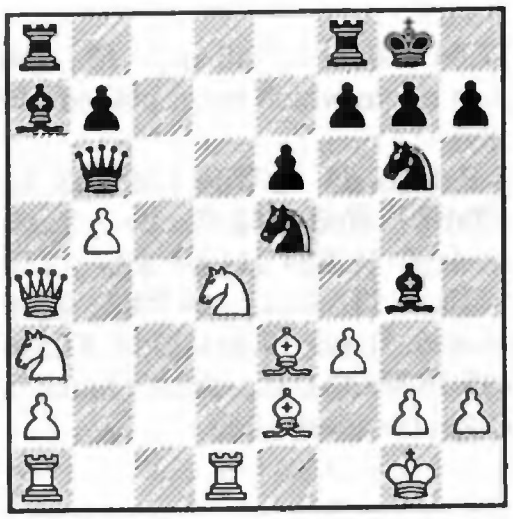
18.♖dd1 ♘e2+ 19.♔f1 ♘xd4 20.♖xd4 ♘xb2 21.♖b1 ♗xc5 22.♖xb2 ♗xd4 23.♘cxd4±) 14.♘b4 ♘cxe5 15.♘xe5 ♘xe5 16.♗xd3 ♘xd3 17.♘xd3 ♗f6 18.♕a3 ♕c7 19.♖d2 ♖fd8 20.♖ad1 ♖d7 21.♘e1±) 12.b4 ♗a7 (12... ♗xb4 13.g4 (13.♘xd4 ♕a5 14.♕xa5) 13... b5 14.cxb5 axb5 15.♕xb5 ♗e4 16.♘xd4 ♖b8 17.♘xc6 ♕xd1+ 18.♗xd1 ♖xb5 19.♘xb5 ♗xc6 20.a4 ♘xe5∞



) 13.♗g5 (13.c5 0-0 14.♘c4 ♗e4 15.♘d6 (15.♗e3 d3 16.♕b3 ♕e7 17.♖xd3 ♗xf3 18.gxf3 ♘gxe5 19.♘xe5 ♘xe5 20.♖dd1 ♕h4∞) 15... ♗xf3 16.♗xf3 ♘gxe5 17.♗e4 f5 18.♗xc6 ♘xc6 19.♗b2 ♕e7 20.♗xd4 ♖ad8 21.♗c3 ♗b8 22.b5 axb5 23.♕xb5 ♗xd6 24.cxd6 ♖xd6 25.♖xd6 ♕xd6 26.♕xb7 ♘d4 27.♕b2 e5 28.a4±) 13... ♕b6 (13... ♕d7 14.c5 d3 15.♕b3 ♘gxe5 16.♘xe5 ♘xe5 17.♘c4 ♘xc4 18.♕xc4 h6 19.♗h4 0-0 20.♗xd3±



x♗a7;
13... f6?! 14.exf6 gxf6 15.♗e3 e5 16.c5 ♕e7 17.♗h6± x♔e8; x♗b8; 13... ♕b8!?) 14.b5 (14.♘xd4 0-0 15.♗e3 ♕xb4 16.♕xb4 ♘xb4 17.♘xf5 exf5 18.♗xa7 ♖xa7∞) 14... axb5 15.cxb5 ♘cxe5 16.♘xd4 0-0 17.♗e3 ♗g4 (17... ♕c7 18.♖ac1 ♕e7 19.♘xf5 exf5 20.♗xa7 b6 21.♘c4 ♖xa7 22.♕c2 ♘xc4 23.♗xc4±) 18.f3

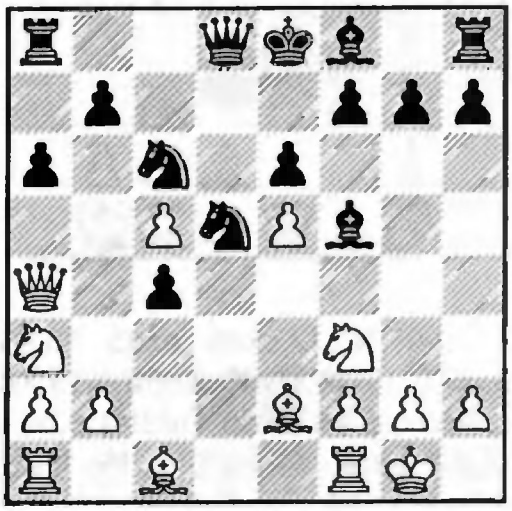


18... ♘xf3+ 19.gxf3 ♗b8 20.♕b4 ♕c7 21.f4 ♘xf4 22.♗xg4 ♘d5 23.♕b3

♕xh2+ 24.♔f1 ♘xe3+ 25.♕xe3 ♗f4 26.♕h3 ♕xh3+ 27.♗xh3 ♖xa3 28.♗g2 b6∞

a2) 9.♗g5 h6;

a3) 9.♕a4 dxc4 (9... cxd4 10.♘xd4 dxc4 11.♖d1 ♕a5 12.♕xa5 ♘xa5 13.♘xf5 ♘xf5 14.♘xc4 ♘xc4 15.♗xc4±) 10.dxc5 ♘d5



a31) 11.♗g5! ♕a5 (11... ♕d7!?) 12.♕xa5 ♘xa5 13.♘xc4 ♘xc4 14.♗xc4 ♗xc5 15.♖ac1 ♖c8 (15... ♗b6 16.♗xd5 exd5 17.♖c3± ♖b8 18.♖b3 ♗a7 19.♖c1↑) 16.♘h4 ♘e7 17.b4 ♗xb4 18.♘xf5 exf5 19.♗d5 ♖xc1 20.♖xc1 b5 21.♗xe7 ♗xe7 22.♖c7 ♔d8 23.♖a7 ♖f8 24.♖xa6 ♗c5 25.♔f1±;

a32) 11.♘d4 ♗xc5 12.♘xc6 (12.♘xf5 exf5 13.♕xc4 ♘d4 14.♖d1 ♘b6 15.♕d3 ♘xe2+ 16.♕xe2 ♕e7=) 12... ♕d7 13.♘xc4 b5 (13... 0-0!?; 13... ♕xc6?! 14.♕xc6+ bxc6 15.♗d2±) 14.♘d6+ ♗xd6 15.♗xb5 ♘b6 16.♕d4 ♗c7 17.♕xd7+ ♘xd7 18.♗e2 (18.♗a4 ♘c5) 18... ♗e4 19.♗e3 ♗xc6 20.♖ac1 ♘b8 21.♗f3 ♗xe5 22.♗xc6+ ♘xc6 23.♖xc6 ♗xb2 24.♖b1 ♗f6 25.♗c5 ♗e7=;

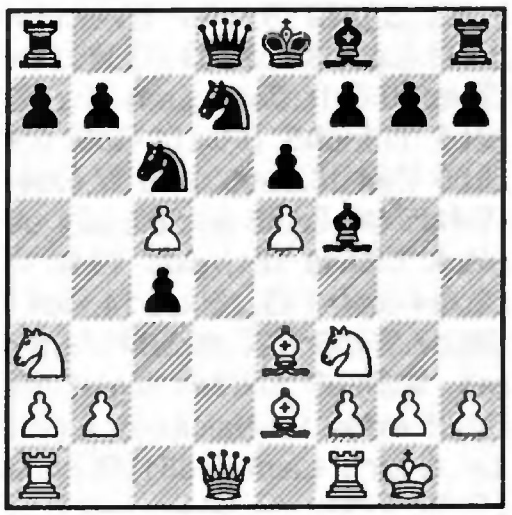
a33) 11.♕xc4 ♕a5 12.♗d2 ♕xc5 13.♖ac1 ♕xc4 14.♘xc4 ♗e7 15.♘d6+ ♗xd6 16.exd6 ♔d7 (16... 0-0∞) 17.♖xc6 ♔xc6 18.♘e5+ ♔b6 19.♘xf7 ♖hc8 20.d7 ♖c2 21.♖d1 ♔c7 22.d8♕+ ♖xd8 23.♘xd8 ♔xd8∞;

a4) 9.♗e3 cxd4 10.♘xd4 ♘xd4 11.♗xd4 ♘c6 12.cxd5 ♕xd5 13.♗c3 ♗xa3 14.bxa3 0-0 15.♕xd5 exd5 16.f4 d4∓ 1-0 Karjakin,S (2727)–Ponomariov,R (2718) /Moscow RUS 2008 (71);

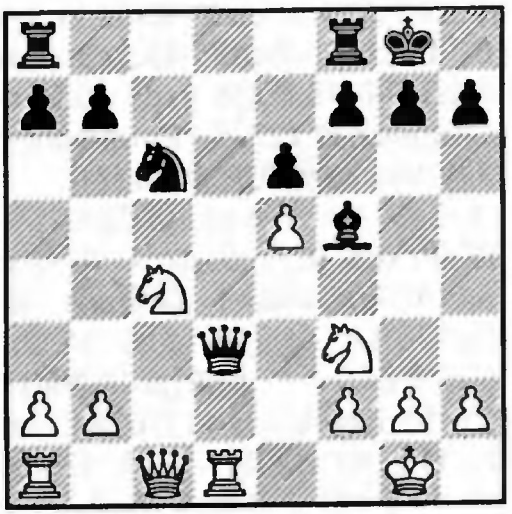
b) 7.♘a3 ♘ec6 8.c4 (8.♗g5!?) 8... cxd4 9.cxd5 (9.♘b5 dxc4 10.♘fxd4 ♘xd4 11.♘xd4 ♗e4 12.♕a4+ ♘c6 13.♖d1 ♕b6 14.♘b5 ♗c5 15.♕xc4 ♗d5 16.♕g4 0-0 17.♗h6 g6 18.♕f4) 9... ♗xa3! 10.dxc6 ♘xc6 11.♕b3 (11.bxa3 d3∓) 11... d3 12.♖d1 ♕b6 13.♕xb6 axb6 14.♗xd3 0-0-0 15.♗e2 ♖xd1+ 16.♗xd1 ♖d8 17.♗b3 ♘a5 18.♗g5 ♗xb2 19.♗xd8 ♗xa1 20.♗xb6 ♘c6∓ Erenburg–Miton,Goa,2001;

c) 7.dxc5 ♘ec6

c1) 8.♗e3 ♘d7 9.c4 dxc4 10.♘a3



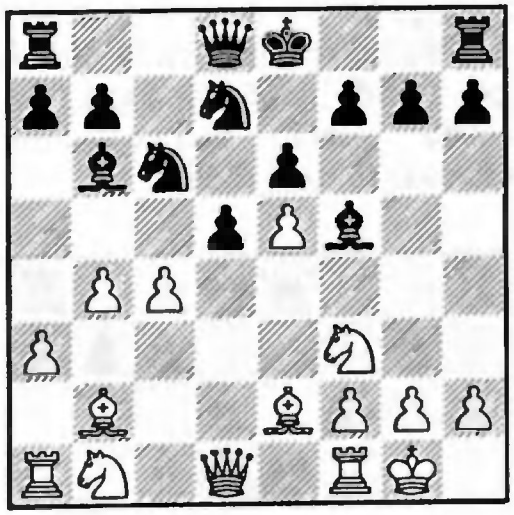
10... ♗xc5 (10... c3!?) 11.♗xc5 ♘xc5 12.♘xc4 0-0 13.♕c1 (13.♖c1 ♘d3 14.♖c3 ♘f4 15.♘d6 ♗g4 Xe5) 13... ♘d3 14.♗xd3 (14.♕e3 ♕d5 15.♘d6 ♘dxe5 16.♖fd1 ♘xf3+ 17.♗xf3 ♕e5 18.♘xb7 ♕xe3 19.fxe3 ♘e5=) 14... ♕xd3 15.♖d1



15... ♕c2 (15... ♕e4!? played by Galkin who is one of main specialists in Caro Cann) 16.♘d4 (16.♕xc2 ♗xc2 17.♖d7 ♗e4!=) 16... ♕xc1 17.♖axc1 ♗e4 18.♘d6 ♗d5 19.♘xc6 ♗xc6 20.f4;

c2) 8.♗g5 ♗e7 9.♗xe7 ♕xe7 10.c4 dxc4 11.♘a3 c3 12.bxc3 (12.♕b3 cxb2 13.♕xb2 0-0 14.♖ac1 ♗e4) 12... ♘d7 13.♗b5 (13.♘b5 0-0 14.♘d6 ♘xc5 15.♗b5 ♘e4 16.♗xc6 bxc6 17.♘d4 c5 18.♘4xf5 (18.♘4b5 a6 19.♘xe4 axb5 20.♘d6 ♖fb8=) 18... exf5 19.f4 ♕e6 20.♘xe4 fxe4=) 13...♕xc5 14.♘c4 0-0 15.♕xd7 ♕xb5 16.♘d6 ♕b6 17.♕xb7 ♘xe5 18.♕xb6 ♘xf3+ 19.gxf3 axb6 20.♘xf5 exf5= 1/2 Naiditsch, A (2684) - Le Quang Liem (2681)/Dortmund GER 2010 (35);

c3) 8.a3?! ♘d7 (8... ♗xc5 9.b4 ♗b6 10.♗b2 ♘d7 11.c4

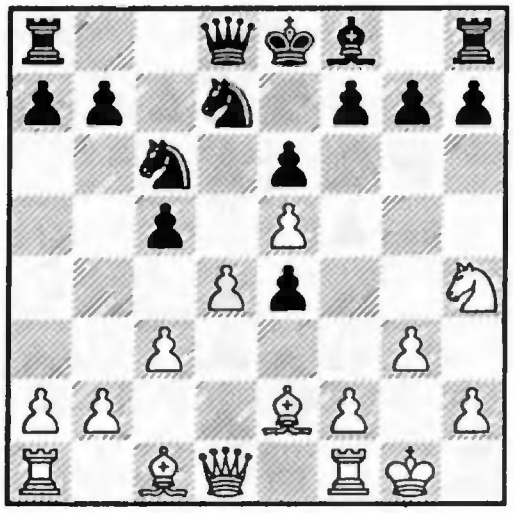


11... 0-0!?N 12.cxd5 exd5 13.♘c3 (13.b5 ♘a5 14.♕xd5 ♗e6⩱ Xb3;Xc4) 13... ♘dxe5 14.♘xd5 ♘d3!=) 9.b4 a5 10.♘d4 axb4 11.♘xf5 exf5 12.♗b2 ♗xc5 13.axb4 ♖xa1 14.♗xa1 ♘xb4 15.♘c3 ♘b6 16.♗b5+ ♘c6 17.♕f3 0-0 18.♕xf5 ♘d4 19.♕d3 ♕h4∞ 1/2 Svidler, P (2734) - So, W (2674)/ Amsterdam NED 2010 (50);

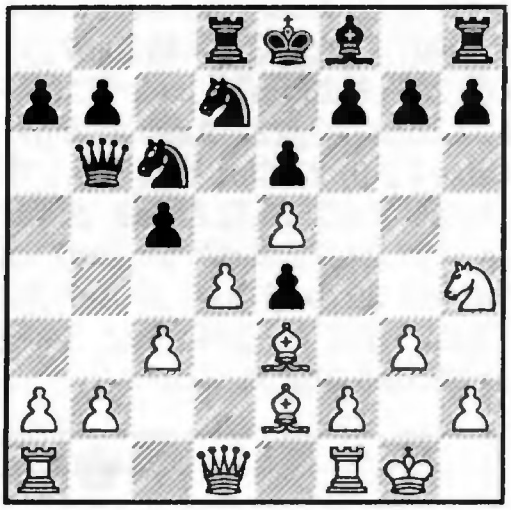
6... ♘d7 7.0-0 h6

This move is only there to save the bishop

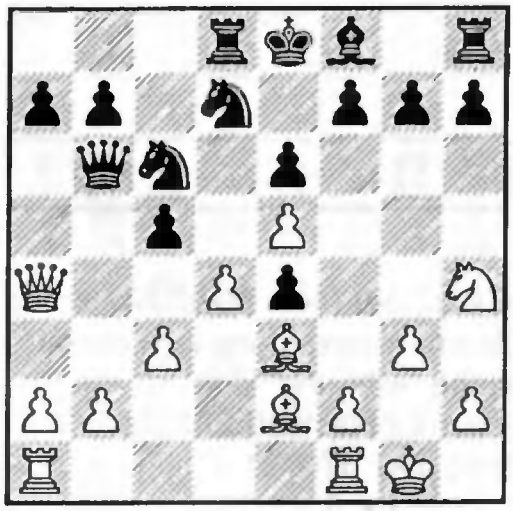
7... c5 8.♘h4! (8.dxc5 ♘xc5=) 8... ♗e4□ I think it is the only move.Black tryed also to exchange bishop on g6 but this kind of position is not so good for black.White has two bishops and easy plan to create a pressure on the king side. (8... ♗g6?! 9.♘xg6 hxg6 10.♘d2± with the plan ♘f3-g3-♔g2-♗e3 and slowly improve the position) 9.♘d2 ♘c6 10.♘xe4 dxe4 11.g3



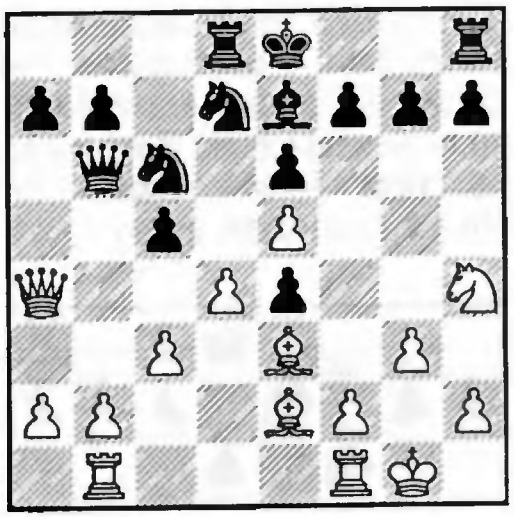
a) 11... ♕b6
a1)12.♗e3
a11) 12... ♖d8!



13.♕a4 (13.b4 cxd4 14.cxd4 ♘dxe5 (14... ♗xb4 15.d5 ♘c5 16.a3 ♖xd5 17.♕c2 ♗d2 18.♖ab1 ♕a5 19.♖b5 ♕xa3 20.♗xc5 ♕c3 21.♕xc3 ♗xc3 22.♗e3 ♖xb5 23.♗xb5 ♗xe5 24.♗xa7±; 14... ♘db8? 15.d5 ♕xb4 16.dxc6 ♖xd1 17.c7+−; 14... ♘xb4 15.♕b1 ♘d3 16.♘f3 exf3 17.♗xd3 ♕xb1 18.♖axb1 ♘xe5 19.♗c2→) 15.♕a4 (15.d5 ♕xb4 16.♖b1 ♕e7 17.dxc6 ♖xd1 18.cxb7 ♖xb1 19.♖xb1 ♘c6 20.b8♕+ ♘xb8 21.♖xb8+ ♔d7 22.♖b7+ ♔c6 23.♖xe7 ♗xe7∓) 15... ♘d3 16.a3 ♕a6! 17.♕xa6 bxa6 18.f3 ♘xd4 19.♗xd4 ♖xd4 20.fxe4 ♘e5 21.♗xa6 ♗d6=)



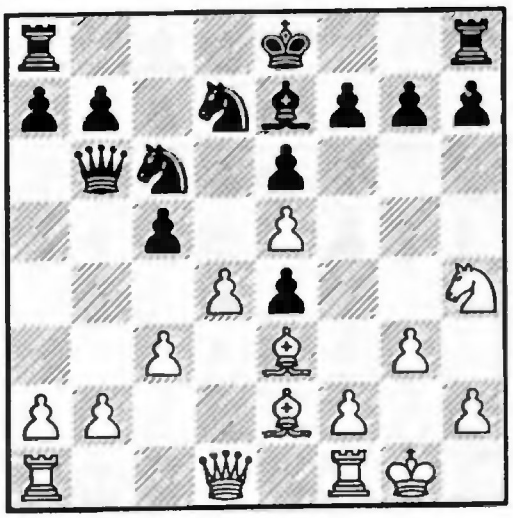
13... ♗e7 (13... ♕xb2 In general to take on b2 is very risky for black. 14.♗b5 ♕xc3 15.♖fc1 ♕b4 16.♗xc6 bxc6 17.♕xc6 cxd4 (17... ♗e7?! 18.♖ab1 ♕a5 19.♖b7→) 18.♖ab1 ♕a3 (18... ♕a5!? 19.♗g5 ♗e7 20.♗xe7 ♔xe7 21.♕d6+ ♔e8 22.♕xd4 g5 23.♘g2 ♘xe5 24.♕xe4 ♔f8∞) 19.♗xd4 ♗e7 20.♖b7 ♗xh4 (20... ♕d3 21.♕a4 ♕a3 22.♕xa3 ♗xa3 23.♖c3 ♗e7 24.♖cc7±) 21.gxh4 ♕f3 22.♖xd7 ♖xd7 23.♖b1 ♕g4+ 24.♔f1 ♕h3+ 25.♔e1 0-0 26.♕xd7 ♕xh2 27.♖c1 h5 28.♖c8 ♖xc8 29.♕xc8+ ♔h7 30.♕b7 ♕h1+ 31.♔e2 1/2 Bachmann,A (2511)−Nisipeanu,L (2692)/Bucharest ROU 2008) 14.♖ab1



(14.♘g2 0-0 (14... ♕xb2 Black needs only one move to make a castel and escape with the king so it's better version for black. 15.♗b5 ♕xc3 16.♖fc1 (16.a3 0-0 17.♖fc1 ♘b6!) 16... ♕b4 17.♗xc6 bxc6 18.♕xc6 0-0 19.♖ab1 ♕a3 20.♕xe4 cxd4 21.♗xd4=)) 14... ♗xh4 15.gxh4 cxd4 16.cxd4 ♕b4 17.♗b5 ♕xa4 18.♗xa4 ♘b6 19.♗c2 ♘xd4 20.♗xe4 ♘c4 21.♖bd1 1/2 Karjakin,S (2678)–Motylev,A (2647)/ Wijk aan Zee NED 2007

a12) 12... ♕xb2? Black has to include moves ♗e7–♘g2 13.♖b1 ♕xc3 14.d5 ♘cxe5 15.dxe6 fxe6 16.♖xb7 ♗e7 17.♕a4 c4 18.♕a6 ♕a3 19.♕xe6 ♕d6 20.♗xc4+–;

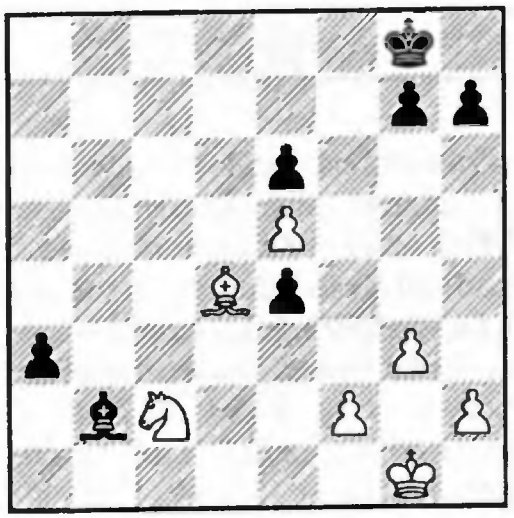
a13) 12... ♗e7



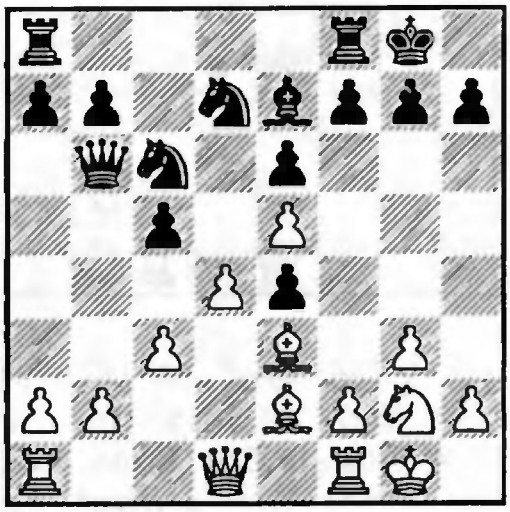
13.b4! (13.♘g2 This position we have to check anyway because it transposes also from ♗e7 first 13... ♕xb2)

a131) 13... cxd4 14.cxd4 ♘xb4 15.♖b1 (15.♕a4!?; 15.d5!?)

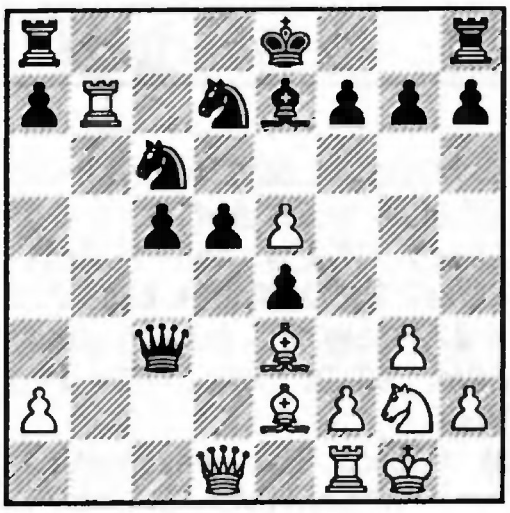
a1311) 15... ♕d8! 16.♕a4 a5 17.a3 (17.♗b5!?) 17... ♘d5 18.♖xb7 ♘c3 19.♕c2 ♕c8 20.♖b3 ♘xe2+ 21.♕xe2 a4 22.♖bb1 0-0 (22... ♗xa3 23.♕g4 g6 24.♕xe4 0-0) 23.♖fc1 ♕e8 (23... ♕a6 24.♕xa6 ♖xa6 25.♖c7 ♖d8 26.♖bb7 ♗xa3 27.♖xd7 ♖xd7 28.♖xd7 ♗f8 29.d5 a3 30.dxe6 fxe6 31.♖a7 ♖xa7 32.♗xa7 ♗b4 33.♗d4 ♗d2 34.♘g2 ♗c1 35.♘e3 ♗b2 36.♘c2±



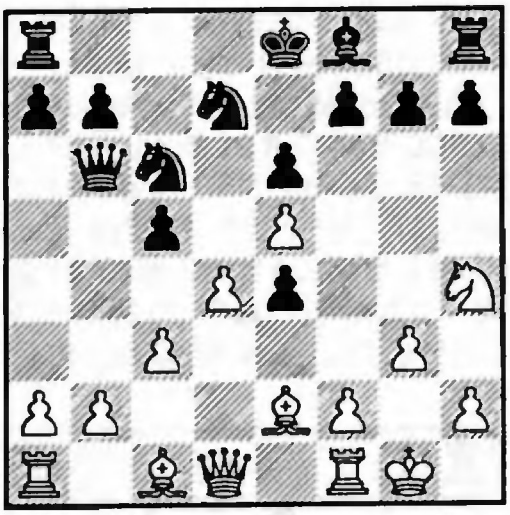
) 24.♕g4 f5 25.exf6 ♘xf6 26.♕xe6+ ♕f7 27.♕xf7+ ♖xf7=;
a1312) 15... ♕c6 16.♕d2 ♕a4 17.a3 ♘d5 18.♗b5 ♕xa3 19.♗xd7+ ♔xd7 20.♖xb7+ ♔e8 21.♕c2±;
a1313) 15... ♕c7 16.♕a4 ♘c6 17.d5! exd5 18.♘f5 ♘c5 (18... g6 19.♘xe7 ♘xe7 20.♖fc1 ♘c6 21.♖xb7 ♕xb7 22.♗a6±; 18... ♘dxe5 19.♘xg7+ ♔f8 20.♘f5 ♗f6 21.f3→; 18... 0-0 19.♖xb7 ♕xb7 20.♕xc6+−) 19.♗xc5 ♗xc5 20.♖fc1 ♗b6 21.♘d6+ ♔f8 22.♗b5 ♖d8 23.♗xc6 bxc6 24.♖xc6 ♕d7 25.♕b5 h5 26.♕xd5 h4 27.♕xe4 hxg3 28.hxg3±;
a132) 13... 0-0



14.b4! cxd4 15.cxd4 ♘xb4 (15... ♕xb4 16.♖b1 ♕a3 17.♕c2 ♘b6 18.♕xe4 ♕xa2 19.♘f4) 16.d5 ♕d8 (16... ♗c5 17.♖b1 ♕c7 18.♗xc5 ♕xc5 19.♕a4 ♘xd5 20.♕xd7 ♘c3 21.♖b2 ♕xe5 22.♘e3±) 17.d6 ♗g5 18.♕d2 ♗xe3 19.♕xb4 ♗b6 20.♕xe4 ♕g5 21.♗d3 g6 22.♖ae1±;
a133) 13... ♖d8 14.♕a4;
14.♖b1 ♕xc3 (14... ♕xa2 15.♖xb7 ♖b8 16.♖c7 cxd4 17.cxd4 ♘b4 18.d5±) 15.d5! (15.♖xb7?! cxd4 16.♗d2 ♕a3 17.♗b5 ♘dxe5 18.♖c7 ♕d6 19.♖xc6 ♘xc6 20.♕a4 ♖c8 21.♖c1 0-0 22.♗xc6 d3∓) 15... exd5 (15... ♘d4 16.dxe6 ♘xe5 17.♘f4 0-0-0 18.♕a4 ♘xe2+ 19.♘xe2 ♕c4 20.♕xa7 ♕a6 21.♗xc5 ♕xa7 22.♗xa7 fxe6 23.♖fc1+ ♘c6 24.♘d4±; 15... ♘b4 16.♗b5±) 16.♖xb7



a1331) 16... ♕xe5 17.♗b5 ♖c8 18.♕a4 ♕d6 (18... ♕f6 19.♗g5 ♕d6 20.♗xe7 ♔xe7 21.♘e3 ♔d8 22.♘xd5 a6 23.♗c4±) 19.♗f4 ♕e6 20.♗c7 (20.♘e3 0-0 21.♘xd5 ♕xd5 22.♖d1 ♘d4 23.♖xd7 ♕h5∓ 24.♖1xd4 cxd4 25.♖xe7 e3 26.♗f1 ♕f3∓) 20... ♘d4 21.♘f4 ♕f5 22.♖d1! e3 23.♗xd7+ ♕xd7 24.♕xd7+ ♔xd7 25.♗a5+ ♔c6 26.♖xe7 e2 27.♘xe2 ♔d6 28.♖e3 ♘xe2+ 29.♖xe2 ♖he8 30.♖e3 d4 31.♔f1±)
a1332) 16... d4 17.♕a4 (17.♗d2 ♕a3 18.e6→) 17... ♘dxe5 18.♗b5 0-0 19.♖c1 ♕a5 20.♗xc6 ♘xc6 21.♕xc6 dxe3 22.♖xe7 exf2+ 23.♔f1±;
a1333) 16... ♖b8 17.♕xd5 ♖xb7 18.♕xc6±;



a2) 12.d5 ♘cxe5 13.dxe6 ♕xe6 14.♕a4 c4 15.♗f4 ♗e7 16.♗xe5 ♕xe5 17.♗xc4 (17.♗g4 ♖d8 18.♖ad1 b5 19.♕xa7 ♘f6 20.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 21.♗e2 0-0 22.♘g2∞) 17... ♗xh4 18.gxh4 ♕f5 19.♖fd1 e3 20.♖xd7 ♕xf2+ 21.♔h1 ♕f3+=;

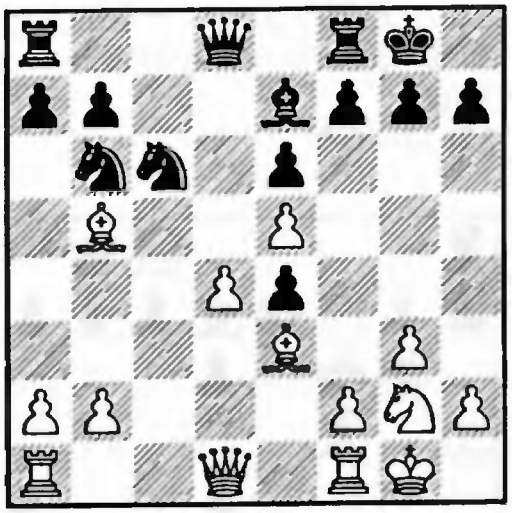
a3) 12.dxc5 This way looks very promising in getting a little advantage for white.

a31) 12... ♘xc5 13.b4 ♘d3 14.♗e3 ♕c7 (14... ♕b5) 15.♗xd3 ♖d8 (15... exd3 16.♕xd3 ♘xe5 17.♕b5+ ♘d7 18.♘f5!? (18.♖fe1!? idea is ♘f5 in some moment) 18... exf5 (18... a6 19.♕e2 ♕e5 20.♘d4 ♗e7 21.♕f3 ♕c7 22.♗f4 ♕c8 23.♖fe1 0-0 24.♘f5↑) 19.♗f4 ♕b6 20.♖fe1+ ♗e7 21.♕xf5 ♘f6 22.♕e5 ♕e6!) 16.b5 ♖xd3 17.♕a4 ♕a5 18.♕xe4 ♕xb5 19.c4 ♖xe3 20.♕xe3 ♕xe5 21.♕b3±;

a32) 12... ♗xc5 13.♕a4 0-0 14.♕xe4 ♘dxe5 15.b4 ♗e7 16.♗e3 ♕c7 17.♘g2± plesant position for white with two bishops;

a33) 12... ♕xc5 13.♕a4 ♕xe5 14.♗f4 ♕a5 15.♕xe4 g5 (15... ♘f6 16.♕c2 ♘d5 17.♗d2 ♗e7 18.♘f3±) 16.b4 ♕d8 17.b5±;

b) 11... cxd4 12.cxd4 ♗e7 13.♘g2 0-0 14.♗e3 ♘b6 position should be better for white, because black has weak pawn on e4 15.♗b5 (15.♖c1!? ♘d5 16.♕c2 ♕b6 17.♕xe4 ♕xb2 18.♗d3 g6 19.♗c4 ♘b6 20.♗b3 ♖ad8 21.♖c2 ♕a3 22.♘f4± 0-1 Smirin, I (2615) – Anand, V (2795) /Villarrobledo 1998/ EXT 1999 (52))



b1)15... ♕d5 16.a4 a6 (16... ♖fd8 17.♘f4 ♕d7 18.♕b1±; 16... ♖fc8 17.♘f4 ♕d8 18.♕b1 ♘xd4 19.♖d1 ♘f3+ 20.♔f1 ♕c7 21.♕xe4 ♘xe5 22.♖ac1 ♘c6 23.♘xe6 fxe6 24.♕xe6+ ♔h8 25.♗f4+–) 17.♘f4 ♕d7 18.♗xc6 ♕xc6 19.♕b1 ♘xa4 (19... ♗g5 20.♖c1 ♕d7 21.♘h5± Xe4) 20.♖c1 ♕d7 21.d5 exd5 22.♖d1 ♘c5 23.♖xd5 ♕c6 24.♗xc5 ♗xc5 25.♕xe4±;

b2) 15... a6? 16.♗xc6 bxc6 17.♕g4±;

b3) 15... ♘b4 16.♕g4 ♕d5 17.♗e2 (17.♗h6 g6 18.♗xf8 ♗xf8 19.a4 ♕xd4∞ Xe5) 17... ♖fc8 18.♘f4 ♕d7 19.♖ad1;

b4) 15... ♘d5 16.♗xc6 (16.♕g4 ♘xe3

17.fxe3 ♘xd4 18.exd4 ♕xd4+ 19.♔h1 ♕xe5∞) 16... bxc6 17.♕g4 ♘xe3 18.fxe3 c5 19.♕xe4 cxd4 20.exd4 ♖b8 21.♖f2 ♖b4 22.♖d1 ♕b6 23.b3 ♖d8⇄;
c) 11... ♗e7 12.♘g2 transpose to the same position;

8.♘bd2 ♗h7

8... ♘g6 9.♘e1±

9.♘b3 ♘f5

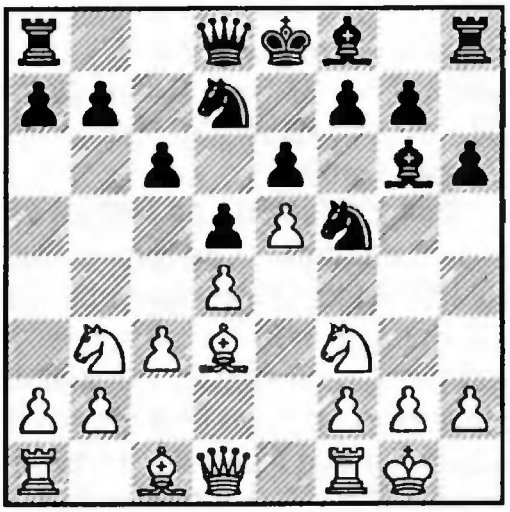
9... ♘g6 10.g3± and two black pieces are not in the game

10.♗d3

White prepares g4 and after to exchange on h7, which takes black the possibility of a short castle.

10... ♗g6

10... ♗e7 11.g4 ♘h4 12.♗xh7 ♖xh7 13.♘xh4 ♗xh4 14.f4 ♖h8 15.♗e3± I played 10... ,♗g6 because I wanted to avoid this position, black is very passive and is not easy to find some plan. White has simple play by f5.



11.♘e1!

Typical idea. At some point white is going to play f4–g4–f5 with the idea of taking more space and crushing black on the king side. Black should try to create some counter play with c5 and then after cxd4 play for d4 pawn or by using the c file.

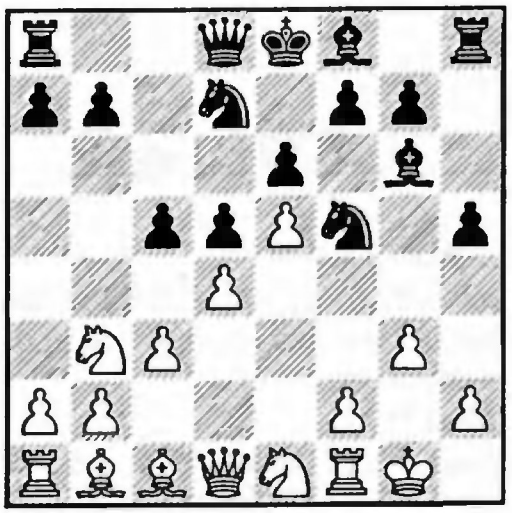
11... h5

11... c5?! 12.g4 ♘h4 13.♗xg6 ♘xg6 14.f4 c4 15.♘d2± not possible stop f5

12.g3

Idea of this move is to create problems for black with bishop g6 and pawn h5 after transfer night ♘g2–♘f4

12... c5 13.♗b1

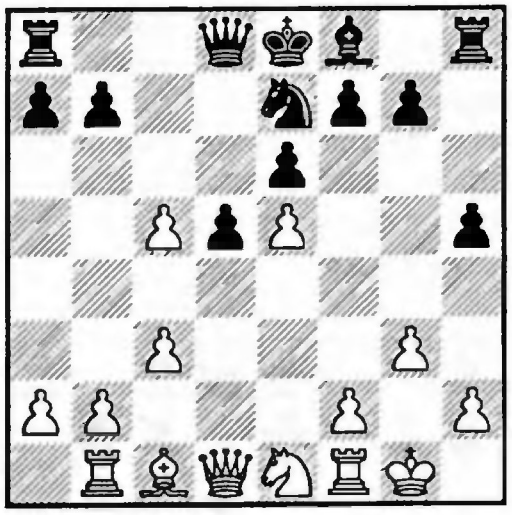


At this moment I was afraid that white would put night on f4 and I could not make castle or any other move on king's side so I decided to play:

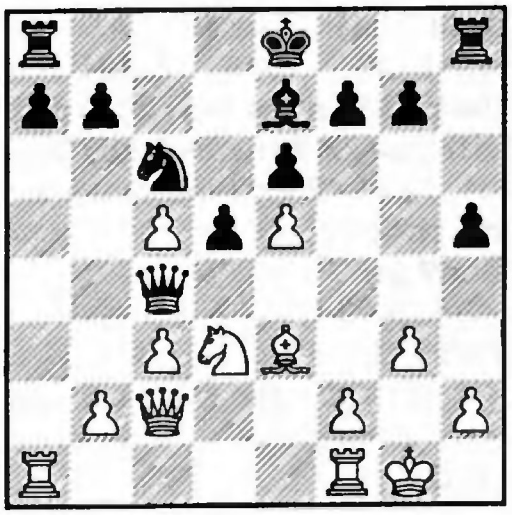
13... ♘e7?!

13... ♖c8 14.♘g2 cxd4 (14... ♘e7 15.♗g5 (15.♗xg6 ♘xg6 16.f4 ♘e7! 17.♘e3 g6= When I played ♘e7 I wanted for myself to get into a position such as this) 15... ♗xb1 16.♖xb1 ♕b6 17.♘f4 cxd4 18.cxd4 g6 19.♕d3± with very unpleasant ideas sacrifice on g6) 15.cxd4 ♘b6 16.♘f4 ♗e7 17.♗d3 ♘c4 18.♕e2±

14.♘xc5!
14.♗g5 ♗xb1 15.♖xb1 ♕b6 16.♘g2 cxd4 17.cxd4 ♘c6 18.♘f4 a5 Xd4
14... ♘xc5 15.dxc5 ♗xb1 16.♖xb1

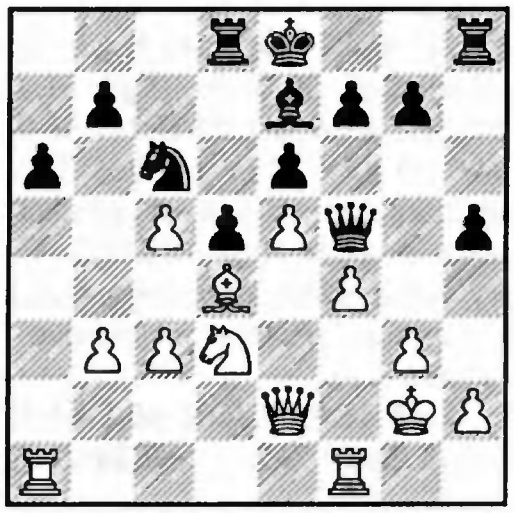


16... ♕a5□
Black win the pawn back but white should take advantage of better development
17.♕b3?!
17.♗e3 ♕xa2 18.b4 ♕c4 (18... ♘f5 19.♖a1 ♕c4 20.♕a4+±; 18... ♘c6 19.♕d3 ♕c4 20.♕xc4 dxc4 21.♘f3 a6 22.b5 axb5 23.♖xb5 ♘d8 24.♘d2±) 19.♘f3 a6 20.♘d4 ♘c6 21.b5 axb5 (21... ♘xd4 22.♕xd4 ♕xd4 23.cxd4±) 22.♘xb5 ♖b8 23.♘d4 ♘xd4 24.♕xd4 ♕xd4 25.cxd4 ♗e7 26.♖b5 ♔d7 27.♖fb1 ♔c7 28.♖b6± Xb7
17... ♕a6!
My opponent didn't see this move
18.♕c2
18.♗e3 ♘f5 19.♗d4 ♖c8= 20.♘d3 ♕xd3 21.♕xb7 ♘e7∓; 18.♕a3 ♕xa3 19.bxa3 0-0-0=
18... ♕xa2 19.♘d3 ♘c6 20.♗e3 ♕c4 21.♖a1 ♗e7

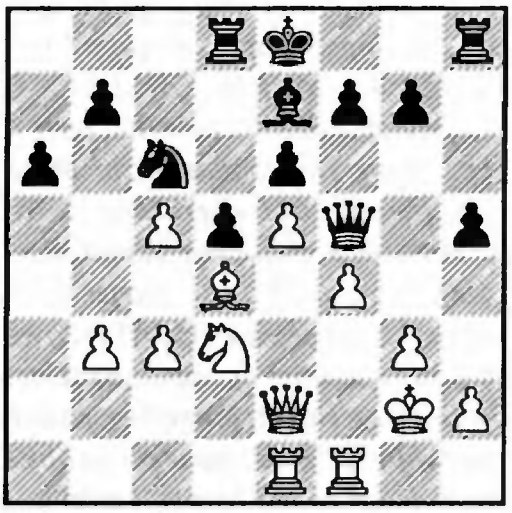


22.b3?!
Most promising plan for white is f4–f5 so for white was better to keep black`s queen far from king side:
22.♖a4! ♕b5 23.b3 a5 24.f4 (24.c4?! dxc4 25.bxc4 ♕a6 26.♖b1 0-0 27.♖b6 ♕a7∞) 24... 0-0 (24... g6 25.c4 dxc4 26.bxc4 ♕a6 27.♖b1± and white can try to transfer his knight next on d6 (♘f2–♘e4)) 25.f5 (25.♔g2!? White doesn't need to hurry with f5) 25... f6! 26.exf6 ♖xf6 27.fxe6 ♖xf1+ 28.♔xf1 ♘d8 29.c4 dxc4 30.♕xc4 ♕xc4 31.♖xc4 ♘xe6=
22... ♕e4 23.♖a4 ♕f5 24.♕e2 a6 25.f4
Critical situation. Position is about equal. White has more space but black pieces have normal positions and black has got no serious weaknesses. At this moment I had little trouble with time and I made a decision to do some waiting moves. According to Tartakover, "it's even better to play a wrong plan than to play without any plan". I should have played for example 0-0 and f6 next.
25... ♖c8

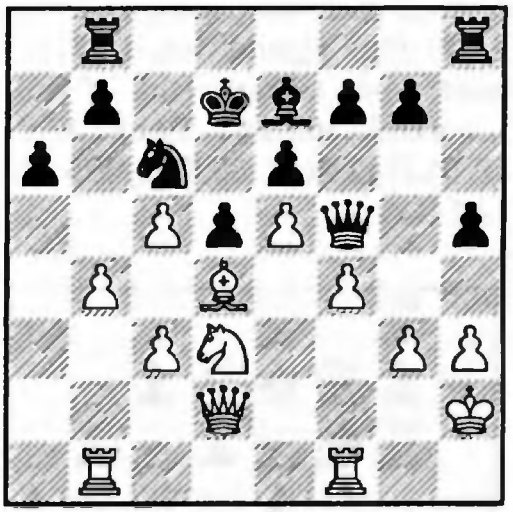
25... 0-0!? 26.♗d4 f6∞
26.♔g2 ♘b8 27.♗d4 ♘c6 28.♖aa1 ♖d8



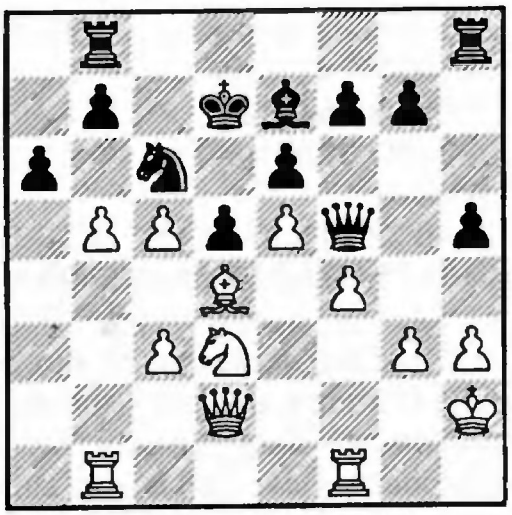
28... h4 29.g4 (29.♘f2 hxg3 30.hxg3 ♔d7=) 29... h3+ 30.♔h1 (30.♔f3 ♕g6∞) 30... ♕e4+ 31.♕xe4 dxe4 32.♘f2 ♘xd4 33.cxd4 ♖d8 34.♖fd1 e3 35.♘e4 ♖h4⇄
29.♖ae1!



Correct set-up. White makes prophylaxis against some ♕e4 idea and also slowly prepares the plan with f5 (h3-g4; or ♘f2-♘d1-♘e3).
29... ♘a5 30.b4 ♘c6
30... ♘c4!? 31.h3 a5
31.h3 ♔d7
31... 0-0 32.g4 ♕h7 33.f5±
32.♕d2 ♖h6 33.♔h2 ♖hh8 34.♖b1
Beginning of a wrong plan. White should transfer its knight on e3! and play f5.Caruana said after the game that after ♘e3 black can play ♕e4 but that probably ♘c4-♘d6 is very strong in my opinion.
34.♘f2!
34... ♖b8

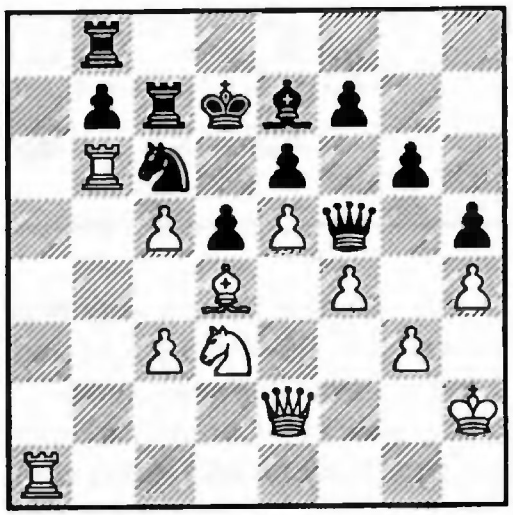


34... ♘a7 Generall this is very interesting setup (♘b5-♔c6) suggested by my friends from the team. After ♖b1, move, I knew that Caruana is probably going to play b5 so I didn't want to stop this move. 35.♘b2! Black has to wait so white can almost always use this correct plan. (35.c6+!?) 35... ♘b5 36.♖be1 ♔c6 37.♘d1 ♕g6 38.f5 exf5 39.♘e3
35.b5?



Not correct, white is going to create pressure on b7 pawn but after b5 move black has potential good possibility for counter play against the c5 pawn or against white`s king on the "a" file.

35... axb5 36.♖xb5 ♖hc8 37.♖fb1 ♖c7 38.♕e2 ♕g6 39.♖b6 ♕f5 40.h4 g6 41.♖a1



41... ♔e8!

Pawn b7 is protected enough, so black transfers the king to a safe place.

42.♘b4 ♔f8

42... ♘xb4 43.cxb4 ♗xh4 44.b5 ♗d8 45.♖a7 h4

43.♕b2 ♖bc8! 44.♕d2

44.♘xc6 ♖xc6 45.♖xc6 ♖xc6 46.♖a2 (46.♕xb7 ♕c2+ 47.♔g1 ♗xc5!) 46... ♗xc5 47.♕xb7 ♗xd4 48.♕xc6 ♗g1+ 49.♔h1 ♗e3 50.♕a8+ ♔g7 51.♔h2 ♕b1 (51... ♗xf4 52.gxf4 ♕xf4+ 53.♔g2 ♕e4+ 54.♔f1 ♕f3+ 55.♔e1 ♕xc3+ with perpetual check or position 5 pawns against rook) 52.♖g2 ♕c1= Very weak white king does not give any chance for white to improve the position.

44... ♘d8 45.♘d3 ♘c6 46.♘b4 ♘d8 47.♘d3 ♘c6= ½-½ *[Kamil Miton]*

(13) [B12]

☐ **Perunovic,Mil (2578)**

■ **Solak,D (2588)**

Serbian Cup 2011 Valjevo SRB (3.1), 18.05.2011

This game decided winner of Serbian Cup. Perunovic was well prepared and he caught his opponent in preparation after 10.♗xc4!?. After he played 10... ♘d7 black probably didn't know that he is following game Nepomniatchtchi–Maletin, Russia (rapid) 2011 where white went on win. Perunovic employed simple novelty 19.♗a6! and easily won game. Critical move in this game was 10... ♕xb2! which is maybe refutation of Nepomniatchtchi`s line. In notes I offered another possibility for white 10.♕d2, move played by GM Peter Svidler, where I wasn't able to find good position for black.

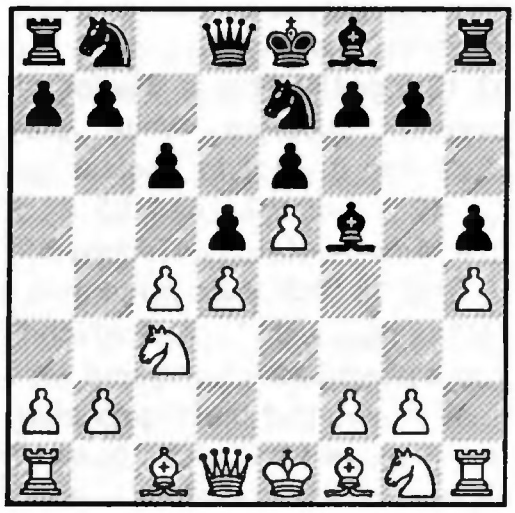
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♗f5 4.h4!?

White played many variations in advanced Caro-Cann and after 4.♗e2 or 4.♘d2 which are most popular answers. 4.h4 is a modern approach with white pieces and it was played by a lot of world-class players as Short, Shirov, Ivanchuk, Kramnik and many others.

4... h5

Most played move with black pieces. Instead of this move black has many other replies like 4... h6, 4... Qb6 or 4... a6, even 4... c5. All these mentioned moves deserve to be more analyzed and player who would like to play line with 4.h4 should be prepared for them too.

5.c4 e6 6.♘c3 ♘e7



Few days before this game I played the same line with white and my opponent answered with 6... ♘d7 This gave me chance to play interesting 7.cxd5 with idea to use an opportunity to play on bad knight on d7 (if this knight would be on b8 black could play natural ♘c6 with pressure on d4). Black replied with very suspicious: 7... exd5?! (On 7... cxd5 I wanted to try 8.♗g5 ♕b6 (8... f6 9.exf6 gxf6 10.♗f4±) 9.♗b5↑ with initiative for white.) 8.♗d3 ♘e7 9.♘ge2↑ and white was already better. Game continued: 9... ♗xd3 10.♕xd3 ♘g6 11.♗g5 ♗e7 12.f4!± ♘df8 13.f5 ♗xg5 14.hxg5 ♘e7 15.0-0-0+- and soon white won the game. Predojevic-Fauland, Sarajevo (Open Bosna 2011) 2011; Interesting option is 6... ♗e7!? where white has a few options and one is 7.cxd5 cxd5 8.♗d3 with complex game.

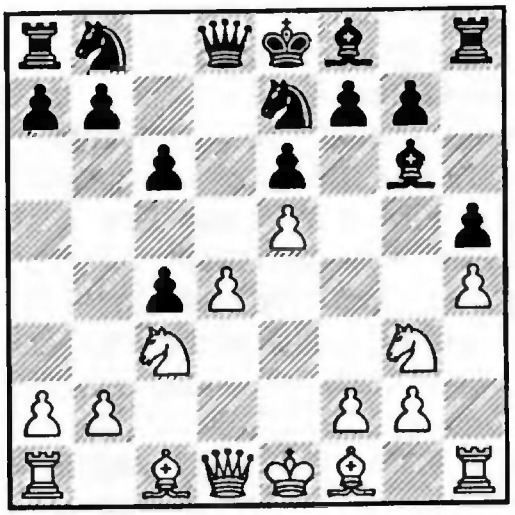
7.♘ge2 dxc4

Here should be examined 7... ♗g4!? 8.f3 ♗f5 which was played by Nakamura in Wijk aan Zee. Black's idea is deep and strategic, although he lost some time with ♗g4-♗f5 he provoked f3 which is a big weakness for white. Game continued with logical: 9.♘g3 ♗g6 10.♗g5 ♕b6 11.♕d2 ♘d7 12.a3 White is playing useful moves. With the last one he is preparing c5 and a support to c-pawn with b4. Here black answered with one strong idea (12.c5 ♕c7 helps black. Next idea was b6 to force white to destroy his pawn structure with cxb6.) 12... f6 13.♗e3 ♕b3!⇄ and black had nice position and finally won game in very good style. Nepomniachtchi-Nakamura, Wijk aan Zee 2011

8.♘g3 ♗g6

Alternative is 8... ♗d3 9.♗xd3 cxd3 10.♕xd3 If this position would be with pawns on h7 and h2 (which comes if white plays 4.c4 without including h4 and h5 in position) black would have more options to cover g5 square,

but here it looks that white enjoys comfortable advantage after 10... ♘d7 11.♕e2 ♘d5 (11... g6 12.♗g5 leads to easy game for white.) 12.♘xh5 ♘xc3 (12... g6 13.♘xd5 cxd5 14.♘f6+ ♘xf6 15.exf6↑ with better position for white.) 13.bxc3 g6 14.♘g3 ♖xh4 15.♖xh4 (15.0-0!? also looks interesting with next Ne4, g3, ♔g2 and action on h-line.) 15... ♕xh4 16.♖b1 0-0-0 17.♕e4± with better position for white.

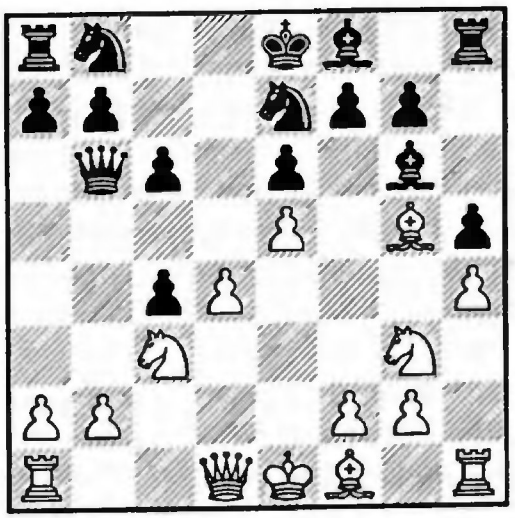


9.♗g5!

Modern line which was played by Svidler recently. The idea is to stop ♘f5.

Alternative is 9.♗xc4 but it is worse because black can play 9... ♘f5 (9... ♘d7 10.♗g5 ♘b6 11.♗b3↑) 10.♘xf5 ♗xf5 11.♗g5 (11.♗e2 ♗g6 12.♗g5 ♗e7 does not bring anything to white.) 11... ♗e7 12.♗xe7 ♕xe7 13.♗d3 ♘d7 (13... ♗xd3 14.♕xd3 ♘d7 15.♘e4 0-0-0 16.♘d6+ ♔b8∞) 14.♗xf5 exf5 15.♕f3 g6 16.0-0-0 0-0-0⇄ with good game for black.

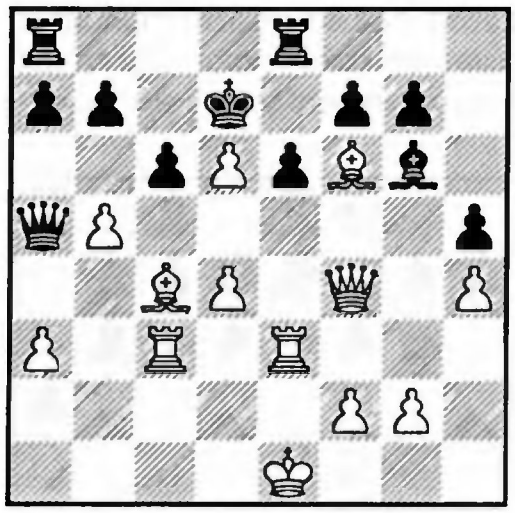
9... ♕b6

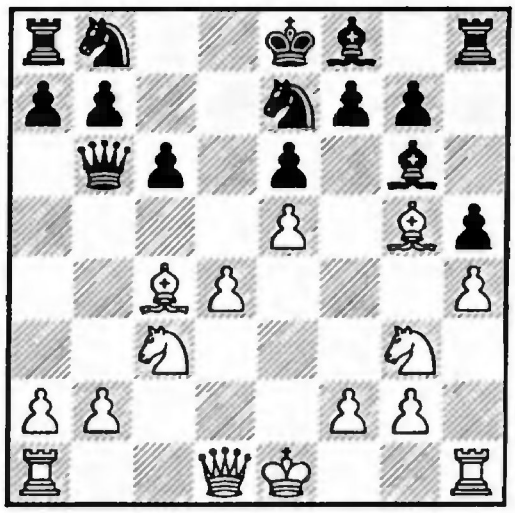


10.♗xc4!?

New move first played by Ian Nepomniatchtchi.

For me it is a big question how black can improve his position after 10.♕d2 which was played by Michael Adams and Peter Svidler. 10... ♕b4 11.a3 ♕b3 12.♘ge4!N This is Svidler's improvement. (Before white played 12.♖c1 and it went to unclear game after: 12... ♘d5 13.♘ce4 b5 14.♗e2 ♘d7∞ Adams-Karpov, Tilburg 1996) 12... ♘d5 13.♖h3! If we remember interesting idea with 7... ♗g4 which Nakamura played after this game we can see all pluses that black gets after he force f3 move from white. Now white is using 3rd rank and black queen has to go back: 13... ♕b6 14.♗xc4 ♕a5 15.♘d6+!? ♗xd6 16.exd6± With equal material on board white position is much better. Svidler won convincingly after 16... ♘d7 17.♖c1 ♘xc3 18.♖cxc3 ♘f6 19.b4 ♕d8 20.♕f4 ♔d7 21.♖he3 ♖e8 22.b5! ♕a5 23.♗xf6





23... gxf6 24.♔f1 ♗f5 25.♗e2 ♖ac8 26.♖c5 ♕a4 27.♖ec3 a6 28.b6 ♗g6 29.♕xf6 e5 30.♖xe5 ♖xe5 31.dxe5 ♖e8 32.♖e3 ♖e6 33.♕g5 ♕d4 34.♔g1 ♗e4 35.♕xh5 ♖xe5 36.♕xf7+ ♔xd6 37.♕xb7 1-0 Svidler–Nakamura, Amsterdam 2010.

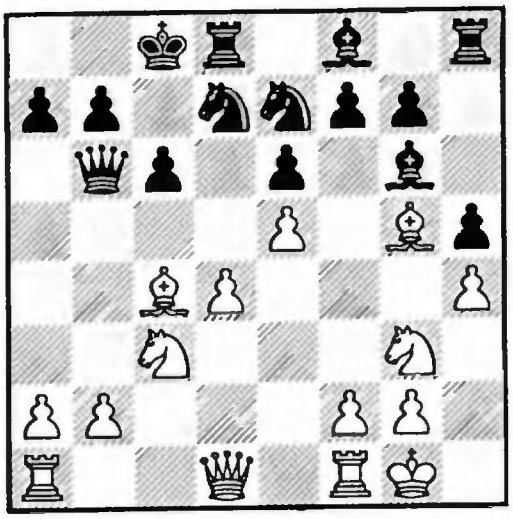
Maybe the line with 10.♕d2 is better for white because we will see that after taking on c4 black could play much better than in the game.

10... ♘d7?

Black is following theory. Like we will see this will be finished very badly for black and last move was already mistake.

Critical was: 10... ♕xb2! and it is very hard to find a clear way for advantage with white. The best reply is 11.♖c1 where black should react with (11.♘ce4 ♘f5 12.0-0 ♘xg3 13.♘xg3 ♕c2! is better for black; Black is better after 11.♘ge4 ♘d5 12.♗xd5 exd5 13.♖b1 ♕a3 14.♖b3 ♕a6∓) 11... ♕b4!. After (11... ♘d5? allows white to sacrifice piece with 12.♗xd5 cxd5 13.♘xd5 exd5 14.♖c8+ ♔d7 15.♖d8+ ♔c6 16.0-0± –> and suddenly white has great attack and much better position.) 12.♗b3 (12.0-0? ♕xc4 13.♘ce4 ♕a6 14.♘d6+ ♔d7 15.♕f3 ♕d3-+) 12... ♘d7 (12... ♘d5 13.♘ge2 ♗e7 14.♗d2 ♕b6 15.♘xd5 exd5 16.♗c2⩲ gives good compensation to white.) 13.0-0 ♘f5∞ black has much better version of position which came in game. Last position is very complex with chances for both sides.

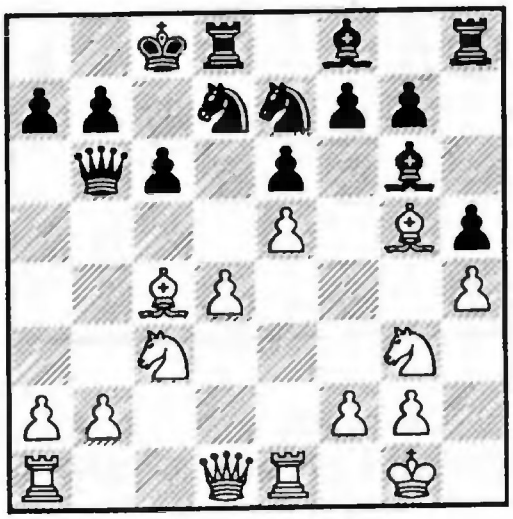
11.0-0 0-0-0



Now it is worse to take 11... ♕xb2 than move before. White continues with 12.♘ce4 and 12... ♘f5 there is very strong and concrete 13.♖b1 ♕xd4 14.♖xb7 and there is no better option for black than 14... ♕xd1 (14... ♘xe5 leads to strong atack for white after 15.♕b3 f6 16.♗xf6 ♕xc4 (16... ♘xg3 17.♗xe5 ♕xe5 18.♘xg3+−) 17.♖b8+ ♖xb8 18.♕xb8+ ♔f7 19.♗xe5 ♔g8 20.♘xf5 ♗xf5 21.♘g5+− and black is paralyzed.) 15.♖xd1 ♘xe5 16.♖xa7 ♖c8 (On 16... ♖b8 white would pin black`s rook with 17.♗f4 and black would be clearly worse after forced 17... ♘xg3 18.♘xg3 ♗c5 19.♖a6 ♗d6 20.♖xd6 ♘xc4 21.♖xe6+ fxe6 22.♗xb8 0-0 23.♗c7±) 17.♗a6 ♖b8 18.♗f4 f6 and now white has many choices, but it looks very nice to go back 19.♗c4! with idea to use e6 weakness. After 19... ♘xg3 20.♗xe5 fxe5 21.♘xg3± white has dominaton all over the board.

12.♖e1±

White is already clearly better. As we will see in a next few moves black will collapse due to tactical blunder, but anyway it is hard to recommend some real improvement for black!



12... ♕xb2

Black takes risk with this move, but he needs to react very fast. If white connect his pieces black`s position will be simply bad.

12... ♘xe5 is not working too. White wins after: 13.♖xe5 ♖xd4 (13... f6 14.♗xe6+ ♔b8 15.♘a4 ♕c7 16.♗f4 fxe5 17.♗xe5+−) 14.♕e2 f6 15.♖e4 ♗xe4 (15... ♖xe4 16.♘gxe4 fxg5 17.♘xg5 ♔b8 18.♖d1+− with decisive advantage.) 16.♗xe6+ ♔b8 17.♗f4+ ♔a8 18.♘gxe4+−; Best was passive 12... ♔b8 but after 13.♘ge4 ♔a8 14.♘a4 ♕c7 15.♕f3± black is in problems.

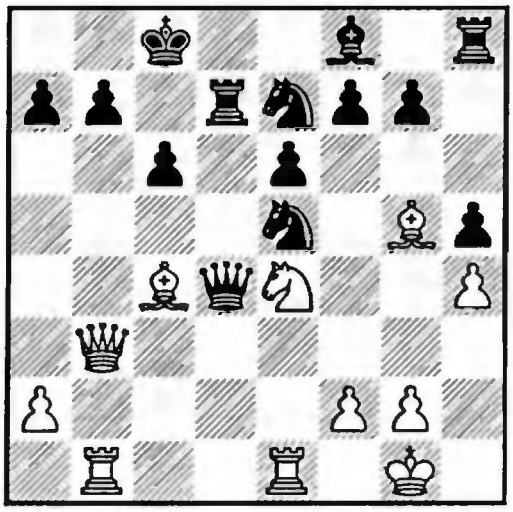
13.♘ge4 ♗xe4

Black over looked in his calculation white`s 17th move, but like I wrote before black position is just bad.

Most stubborn was 13... ♘b6 but even here after: 14.♖b1 ♕a3 15.♖b3 ♕a5 16.♘d6+ (Also after 16.♗f1± it

is very hard to find good moves for black.) 16... ♔b8 17.♘ce4± black has no reason to be optimistic.; It is bad to take on e5 too: 13... ♘xe5 14.♖b1 ♕a3 15.♗c1 ♕a5 (15... ♘xc4 16.♗xa3 ♘xa3 17.♕a4 ♘xb1 18.♖xb1+− and black cannot defend against white attack on queenside.) 16.♕b3+− and white will have one piece up and a huge attack on queenside.

14.♘xe4 ♘xe5 15.♖b1 ♕xd4 16.♕b3 ♖d7



17.♗a6!N

Simple novelty after which white is winning. I had also in my notes before my game with Fauland, but as we saw my oponent went away from this line very early (6... ♘d7).

It is interesting that in game Nepomniatchtchi – Maletin, Russia (rapid-ch) 2011 white played here 17.♖ed1 and black resigned. He missed that after 17... ♕xe4 18.♖xd7 he has 18... ♕xb1+! 19.♕xb1 ♘xd7 and balck is better.

17... ♕b6 18.♗xb7+ ♖xb7 19.♘d6++−

With this nice trick white stays with exchange up. Black has two pawns and knight for it but his pieces are not developed and there is many threats by white. Position is simply lost.

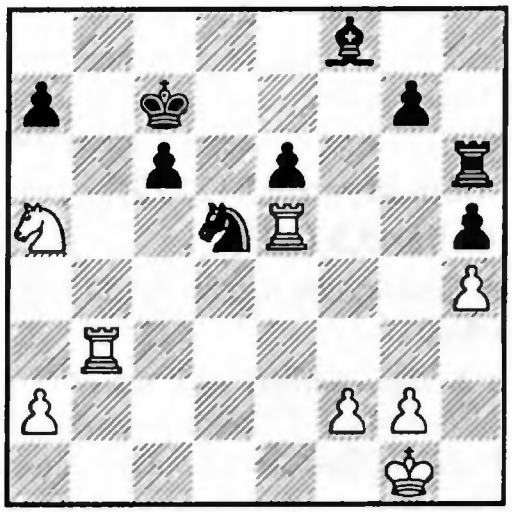
19... ♔c7 20.♘xb7 ♕xb3 21.♖xb3 f6

On 21... ♘5g6 white penetrates to 7th rank after 22.♘a5+−; After 21... ♘7g6 22.♖d1 there is no good moves for black. For example: 22... ♗e7 23.♗xe7 ♘xe7 24.♘c5+− and black cannot stop ♖b7. On 24... ♖b8 comes 25.♘a6+.

22.♗f4 ♘d5

22... ♘7g6 23.♗xe5+ ♘xe5 24.♘a5+− and again there is no defence against ♖b7.

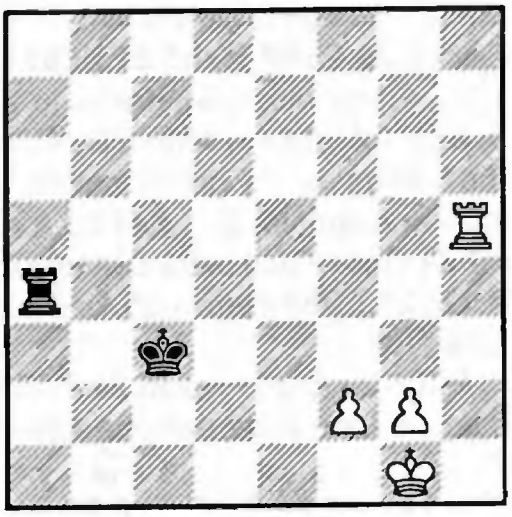
23.♗xe5+ fxe5 24.♖xe5 ♖h6 25.♘a5



Finally black lost one pawn and his position remains lost. Black played this position almost 20 moves more, but question will white win never came into consideration.

25... ♔d6 26.♖e4 ♖f6 27.♖b7 ♖f5 28.♘c4+ ♔c5 29.♘e5 ♘f6 30.♖e2 ♔d5 31.♘g6 ♗c5 32.♘e7+ ♗xe7 33.♖xe7 c5 34.♖xa7 c4 35.♖c7 ♖f4

36.a4 ♔d4 37.♖xe6 ♘d5 38.♖xg7 c3 39.♖d7 ♖e4 40.♖c6 ♖xh4 41.♖xc3 ♔xc3 42.♖xd5 ♖xa4 43.♖xh5



1-0 *[Predojevic,Borki]*

(14) [B87]

□ **Mamedyarov,S (2772)**

■ **Gelfand,B (2733)**

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (1.3), 07.05.2011

In a Sicilian Najdorf with 6.♗c4, Mamedyarov plays a famous system with ♕f3–g3. Gelfand, one of the specialist of this line, found a good novelty with 15... ♔h8. The Azeri player reacted badly and played the bad 16.♗e3. I would recommend 16.f6 for the White. In the game, Gelfand made a fantastic game and won nicely.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6

One of the favourite weapons of Boris Gelfand, the Sicilian Najdorf.

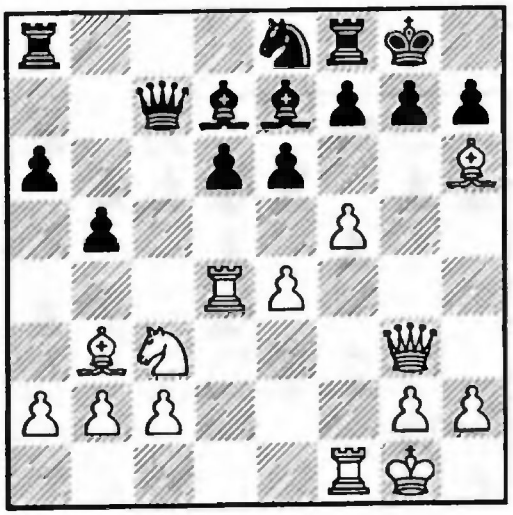
6.♗c4 e6 7.♗b3 b5 8.0-0 ♗e7 9.♕f3 ♕c7 10.♕g3 0-0 11.♗h6 ♘e8 12.♖ad1 ♗d7 13.f4

13.♘f3 ♘c6 14.♗f4 ♕b7 15.♖fe1 b4∞ Kasparov–Gelfand 1994

13... ♘c6 14.f5

14.♘xc6 ♗xc6 15.f5 ♔h8 16.f6 gxh6 17.fxe7 ♕xe7 18.♕f2∞ Ivanchuk–Gelfand 2008

14... ♘xd4 15.♖xd4



15... ♔h8N

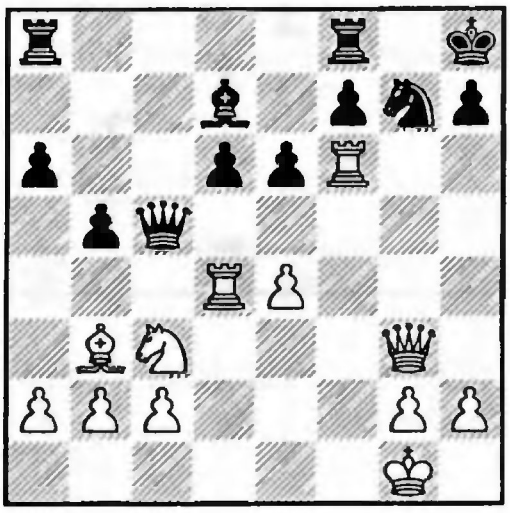
While I was watching this game, I was sure that Gelfand will play at some point one novelty. He is such a big specialist of this line.

15... ♗f6 16.♖d3 ♗e5 17.♕g4 b4 18.f6 g6 19.♘e2∞ Morozevich–Kasparov 2001

16.♗e3

I don't like this move at all. After the novelty of Gelfand, it was a key moment for Mamedyarov and he has chosen a bad plan. At some point, Black will play e5 or d5 and obtain a favorable position. In my point of view,

16.f6 was the only possibility for White to fight for an advantage.
16.f6!? ♗xf6 (16... gxf6 17.♗xf8 ♗xf8 18.♔h1±; 16... ♘xf6?? 17.♕xg7#) 17.♖xf6 ♕c5 (17... gxh6?! 18.♕f2! (18.♖xh6 ♕c5 19.♘e2 ♖g8 20.♕h4∞) 18... ♔g7 (18... ♘xf6? 19.♕xf6+ ♔g8 20.♖d3 ♕c5+ 21.♔h1 ♕g5 22.♖g3 ♕xg3 23.hxg3+−) 19.♖f3 ♗c8 20.♘e2 ♔h8 21.c3 ♕e7 22.♖d1 ♗b7 23.♘g3±) 18.♗xg7+ ♘xg7

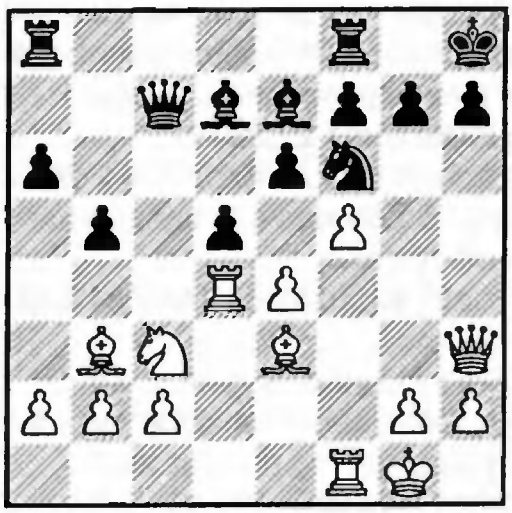


19.♕f2 ♕e5 20.♖f4 ♗c6 21.♘e2 f5 22.exf5 (22.g4 ♖g8 23.exf5 ♘xf5 24.♗xe6 ♕xe6 25.♖xf5 ♗e4 26.♖f7 ♖xg4+ 27.♘g3 d5=) 22... ♘xf5 23.♘g3 ♖f6 24.♘xf5 exf5 25.c3 ♖e8 26.♗c2 ♖g6 27.g3 ♕e1+ 28.♕xe1 ♖xe1+ 29.♔f2 ♖ge6 30.♗d3±;
16.fxe6 fxe6 17.♖xf8+ ♗xf8 18.♗e3 ♘f6 and black is fine.

16... ♘f6 17.♕h3?

17.♖fd1 ♖ac8 18.♕h3 And now ♕h3, but I don't have faith in this plan for White. 18... e5! 19.♖4d2 ♗c6 20.♘d5 ♘xd5 21.♗xd5 ♗xd5 22.exd5 ♕c4 And black got a good position.

17... d5!∓



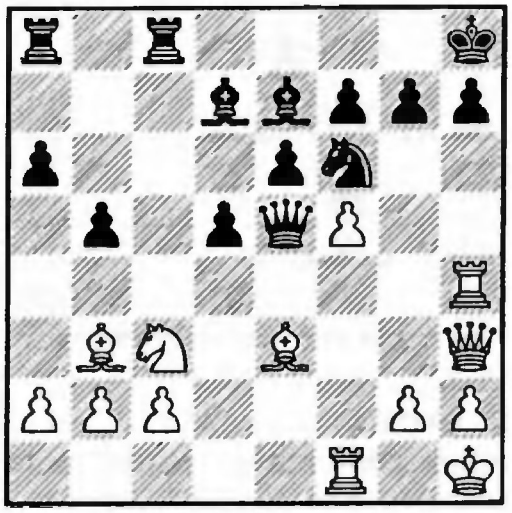
18.e5

18.exd5 exf5 19.♔h1 ♗d6 20.♗g1 ♖fe8 21.♕d3 ♘g4∓

18... ♕xe5 19.♖h4 ♖fc8

A precise and useful move. Now the king has the possibility to escape via the square f8.

20.♔h1



20... ♖xc3!

A great move by Gelfand, it is a typical sacrifice in the Najdorf for Black. Now Black has got a good advantage in this position with a strong center, and the idea to push the "a" pawn.

21.bxc3 ♕xc3 22.♖d4?!

22.♗d4 ♕xh3 23.♖xh3 ♘e4 24.fxe6 ♗xe6 25.♖d3 was a better defense for Mamedyarov.

22... a5∓ 23.♖d3 ♕c6 24.c3 a4 25.♗c2 e5

White's position is getting so difficult now, Gelfand is pushing all his pawns and he is getting a super wall!

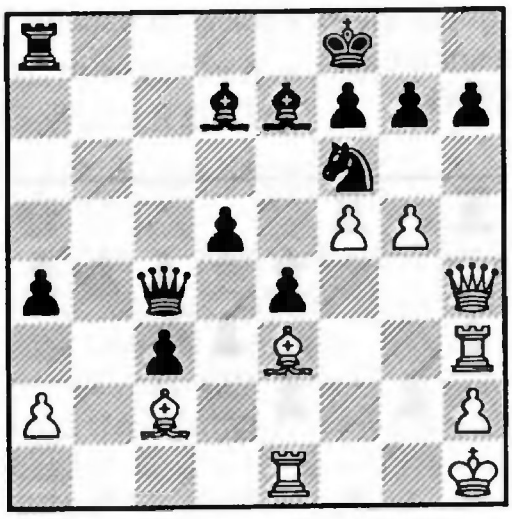
26.♗g5 b4 27.♕h4 bxc3

⌓27... ♖c8 28.♖h3 ♕c4 29.♕xc4 ♖xc4 30.♖b1 ♗d6 31.♗xf6 gxf6 32.♔g1 e4-+

28.♖h3 ♔g8 29.♖e1 e4 30.g4

30.♗xf6 ♗xf6 31.♕xh7+ ♔f8-+

30... ♔f8 31.♗e3 ♕c4 32.g5

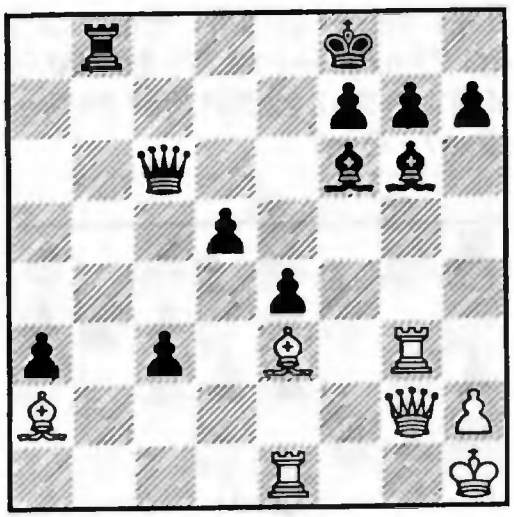


32... ♗xf5!

Another great move, Gelfand is rook down, but has too many pawns in compensation.

32... ♘g8 33.♕xh7 and White is back in the game! 33... f6 34.♖h6 d4 35.♖g6 ♕f7 36.♗xd4 ♗xf5∞

33.gxf6 ♗xf6 34.♕h5 ♗g6 35.♕g4 ♕xa2 36.♗b1 ♕c4 37.♕g2 a3 38.♗a2 ♕c6 39.♖g3 ♖b8



And ♖b2 is coming. What a game by Boris Gelfand!

0-1 *[S.Maze]*

(15) **[B90]**

□ **Kamsky,G (2732)**

■ **Gelfand,B (2733)**

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (2.3), 14.05.2011

Kamsky played a very rare line (system with h3 and ♕f3) in the famous Najdorf variation. It's not so easy for black to find a good antidote. Maybe 9... a5 is the best. Kamsky's novelty (14.h4) is very strong in practice but for the theory I would recommend 14. ♔b1. In the game, both players missed their chances, but it was really intense nevertheless.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6

Gelfand continues to play his lovely Najdorf! It means that he is super well prepared for this Candidates matches.

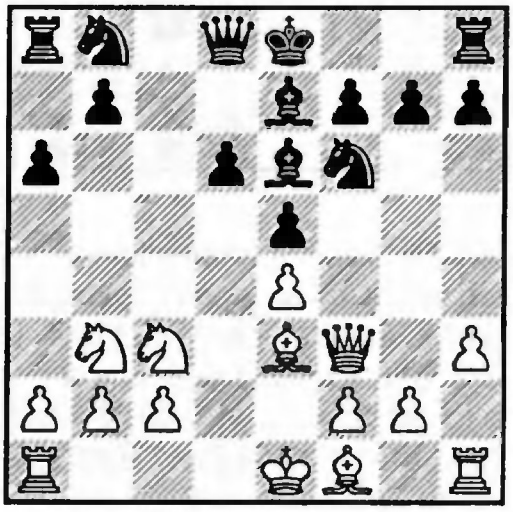
6.♗e3 e5 7.♘b3

In their first game of the match, Kamsky chose 7.♘f3.

7... ♗e7 8.h3!?

What is amazing with Kamsky, he is a non-stop chess creator! He has a need to find new ideas all the time. Only 20 games in this position! A very rare but interesting line! The idea is to put the queen on f3 and then to play g4 with 0-0-0.

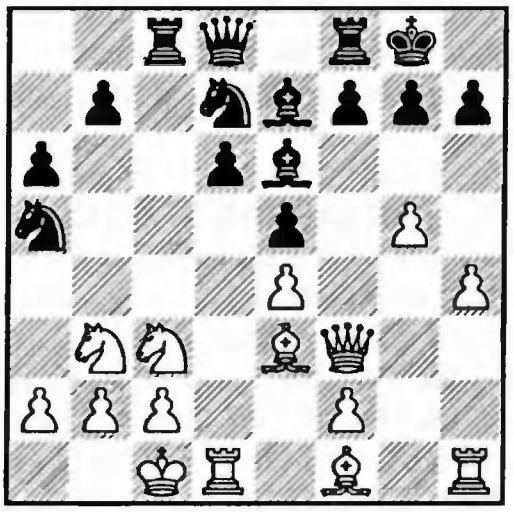
8... ♗e6 9.♕f3



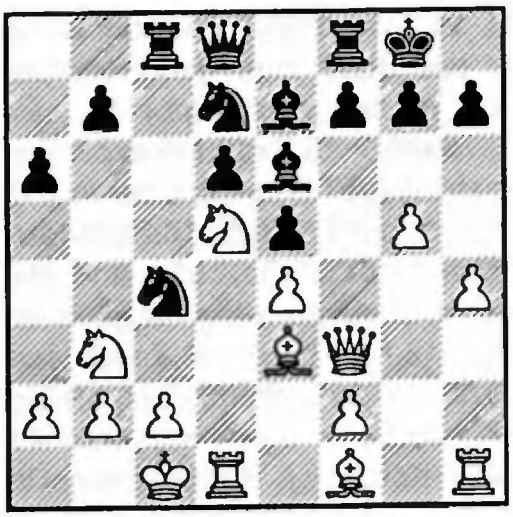
First critical position, black has many choices.

9... ♘bd7

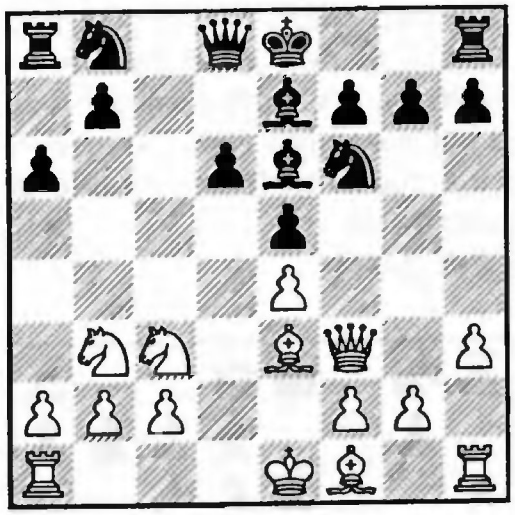
9... 0-0 10.0-0-0 ♘c6 11.g4 ♖c8 12.g5!N I think this is the critical move! (12.♔b1 ♘a5 13.g5 (13.♘c5 ♘c4!∞) 13... ♘d7 14.♘d5 (14.h4 ♖xc3! 15.bxc3 ♘c4 16.♗xc4 ♗xc4 17.h5 a5 18.♕g3 a4 19.♘d2 ♗e6 20.f4 exf4 21.♗xf4 ♕a5⩱ Position is very hot, but Black has good compensation for the exchange.) 14... ♘c4 (14... ♗xd5!? 15.♖xd5 (15.exd5 ♘xb3 16.axb3 ♗xg5∓ Winning a pawn.) 15... ♘xb3 16.axb3 ♗xg5 17.♖xd6 ♗xe3 18.♕xe3 ♕c7 19.♖d2 b5∞ And black have no problem, King on g8 is very safe.) 15.h4 ♘db6 16.♘xb6 ♘xb6 17.♗h3 ♗xh3 18.♕xh3 ♘c4 19.♖hg1 ♕c7 20.♗c1 a5∞ Kryvoruchko,Y (2640)-Korobov,A (2660)/Kiev UKR 2011/) 12... ♘d7 13.h4 ♘a5



14.♘d5! (14.♗h3 ♗xh3 15.♕xh3 ♘c4 (15... ♖xc3!? 16.bxc3 ♘c4 17.♔b1 b5 18.h5 ♘db6⩱ and this position is very interesting. Of course, White is exchanging up, but Black has compensation with the weak king on b1.) 16.♖d3 b5 17.♔b1 ♘db6 18.♗xb6 ♘xb6∞ 19.a3 I would offer to the white a small advantage due to the weakness on d5.) 14... ♘c4



(14... ♗xd5? 15.exd5 This kind of structure with the bishop coming on d3 offers to the White a very good position.
a)15... ♘xb3+ 16.axb3 b5 17.♗d3±
b) 15... f5 16.gxf6 ♖xf6 17.♕g4±;
c) 15... ♘c4 16.♗d3 ♕c7 (16... b5 17.♔b1±) 17.♖dg1±;)
15.♗xc4 ♖xc4 16.♕g2 ♗xd5 (16... a5 17.f4 a4 18.♘a5! ♗xd5 19.♖xd5 ♖c8 20.f5 b6 21.♘b7 ♕c7 22.f6±) 17.♖xd5 b5 18.♔b1 ♘b6 (18... ♕c7 19.f3 ♘b6 20.♖d3 ♖a4 21.h5 ♘c4 22.♗c1±) 19.♖d3 ♘a4 20.h5 With a very unclear position but I think White's perspective is better.;
9... h5 Is quite logical to prevent g4. 10.0-0-0 ♘bd7 11.♔b1 ♕c7 (11... ♘b6 12.g4 hxg4 13.hxg4 ♖xh1 14.♕xh1 ♗xg4 15.f3 ♗h5 16.♕g1 ♘fd7 17.♕xg7± Bologan,V (2580) -Sakaev,K (2620)/Elista 1998/) 12.♘d5 ♗xd5 13.exd5 ♘b6 (13... ♖c8 14.c3 ♘b6 15.g4!N (15.♗e2 h4 16.g3 ♘bxd5 17.♖xd5 e4 18.♕f5 g6 19.♕g5 ♘h5= Wen,Y (2487)-Sjugirov,S (2545)/Gaziantep 2008/) 15... ♘bxd5 (15... ♘c4 16.♗c1± Then g5.; 15... hxg4 16.hxg4 ♖xh1 17.♕xh1±) 16.g5 ♘xe3 17.fxe3 ♘d7 18.g6↑ weak white squares around the black king will offer good opportunities to the White.) 14.c3 (14.g4 too optimistic! 14... hxg4 15.hxg4 ♖xh1 16.♕xh1 ♘xg4∞) 14... h4 15.g4 hxg3 16.fxg3 And I think white position is more pleasant.;



9... a5!?N Was the proposition of Naiditsch and I think is very interesting. 10.♗b5+ ♘bd7 11.0-0-0 (11.a4 0-0 12.0-0 ♘b6 It's difficult to find a good plan for white now.; 11.0-0 0-0 12.♘d2 ♘b6 13.♖fd1 ♖c8 14.♖ac1 ♘fd7∞ and Black is fine.) 11... 0-0 12.♔b1 (12.g4 ♘e8 13.♘a4 ♘c7 14.♗xd7 ♗xd7 15.♘b6 a4!∞ With a strong initiative for Black.) 12... ♘e8! This is the key of the plan. Put the knight f6 on c7, make a pressure on the bishop and prepare b5 for a good moment. 13.♕e2 (13.g4 ♘c7∞) 13... ♘c7 14.♗a4 b5! (14... ♕b8 15.f4 b5 16.♘xb5 ♘b6 17.♗xb6 ♕xb6 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.♘c3±) 15.♘xb5 ♘xb5 16.♕xb5 ♕c7 17.c3 ♖fc8 18.f3

♖ab8 19.♕xa5 ♕c4 20.♗xd7 ♗xd7 21.♕a7 ♖d8 22.♗b6 ♖a8 23.♕b7 ♖ab8 24.♕a7=

10.g4 h6

Good move to avoid g5. Also Black is waiting for the White's plan.

10... ♘b6N Too soon. 11.g5 ♘fd7 12.h4 ♖c8 13.0-0-0 ♘c4 14.♘d5 0-0 15.♔b1 ♘db6 16.♗d3±

11.0-0-0 ♖c8

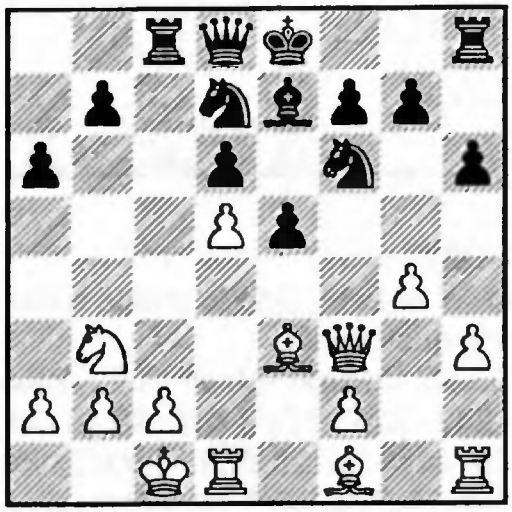
It's one very accurate move! One more time. Very important thing in the Najdorf, sometimes, the best place for the King is on e8. Gelfand plays good the opening for the moment.

11... b5 12.♘d5 ♗xd5 13.exd5 ♘b6 (13... ♕c7 14.♔b1 ♖c8 15.c3 Then h4 and a good attack in perspective.) 14.h4!±

12.♘d5

12.♔b1?! ♖xc3! And...the thematically sacrifice!! Black is doing fine after it! 13.bxc3 ♕c7∓

12... ♗xd5 13.exd5



13... ♘b6

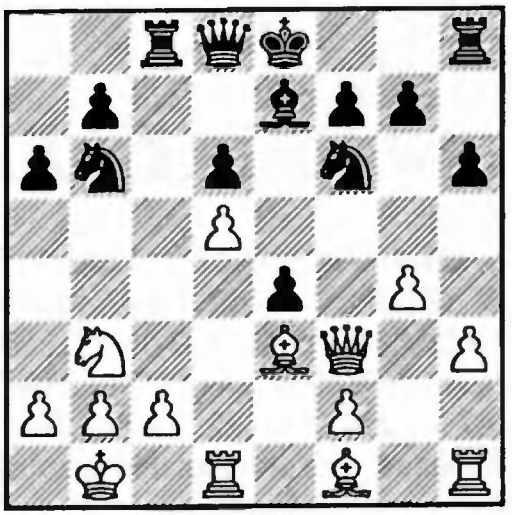
13... 0-0?! 14.h4→ will be like a suicide for Black!; 13... ♕c7 14.c3 b5 15.♔b1 Of course! First protect his king and then attack the other king! (15.h4 I don't like it, the king on c1 is under pressure. 15... b4 16.g5 (16.♗xa6 ♖a8 17.♗b5 bxc3 18.g5 ♖xa2 19.gxf6 ♗xf6 20.♕h3 ♖xb2 21.♗b6! ♕c8 22.♗xd7+ ♕xd7 23.♕xc3 ♖a2∓) 16... bxc3 17.gxf6 cxb2+ 18.♔xb2 ♕c3+ 19.♔b1 ♕c2+ 20.♔a1 ♕c3+=) 15... ♘b6 16.h4! ♘bxd5 17.♗d2! (17.♖xd5?! ♕b7 18.♗g2 e4 19.♕f5 g6 20.♖xb5 axb5 21.♕f4 ♕d7 22.♗d4 ♕e6 23.♖e1 0-0∞ with a complicated position for both sides.) 17... ♕c6 (17... e4 18.♕g2 b4 19.c4 ♘b6 20.♖c1±) 18.♗g2 Black is in trouble.

14.h4!?N

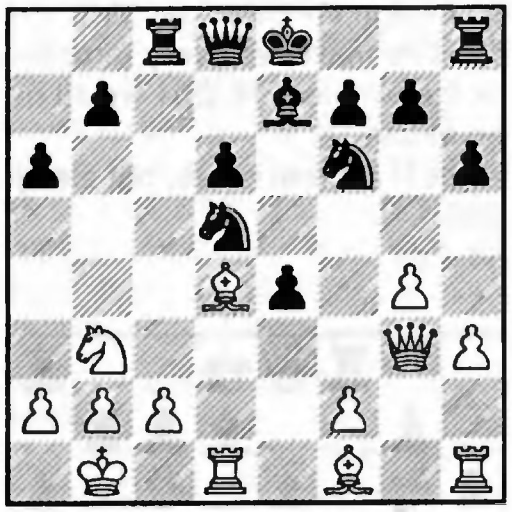
Even though the pawn sacrifice involved in this move was very tempting, I think the simplest 14.♔b1 would have been better.

⌓14.♔b1! A great move, but also just logical.

a) 14... e4



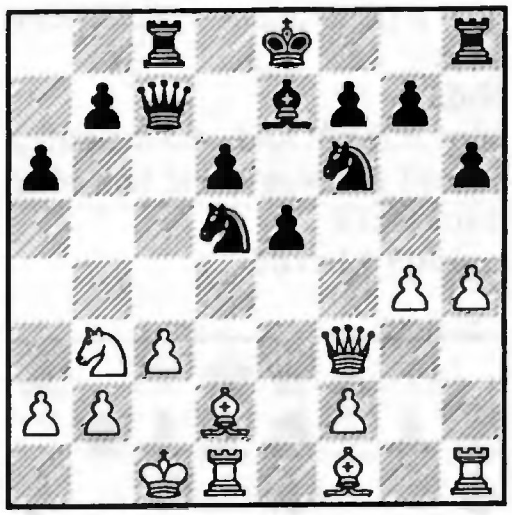
Yes! Black has to do something quickly, otherwise it will be all over soon. 15.♕g3! (15.♗xb6 exf3 16.♗xd8 ♗xd8 17.♖d3 0-0 18.♖xf3 ♖e8 19.♗d3 ♘xd5=) 15... ♘fxd5 (15... ♘bxd5 16.♗d4 ♘b4!? (16... 0-0 17.h4 With a strong attack. 16... ♘b6 17.h4 d5 18.c3± Then ♗h3 and g5.) 17.c3 ♘c6 18.♗xf6 ♗xf6 19.♗g2 (19.♕xd6 ♕xd6 20.♖xd6 h5 21.♗g2 hxg4 22.hxg4 ♖xh1+ 23.♗xh1 ♗h4 24.♖d2 ♖d8 25.♔c2 ♖xd2+ 26.♘xd2 ♗xf2 27.♘xe4 ♗g1 28.♘d6+± And this endgame is very pleasant to play.) 19... ♗e5 20.♕e3 0-0 21.♗xe4 ♖e8 22.♖he1 ♕g5 23.♕f3± Typical better position for White, the bishop in e4 has a really good perspective.) 16.♗d4



16... ♗h4! (16... 0-0?! 17.h4±; 16... ♘f6 17.h4 d5 18.c3 ♘bd7 19.♕g1 g6 20.♗h3±) 17.♕g2 0-0 (17... ♘f6 18.♗xf6 ♗xf6 19.♕xe4+ ♕e7 20.♕xe7+ ♔xe7 21.♗g2 ♖c7 22.♖he1+± Rooks centralized, a shining bishop, and weakness in d5! What else? Great endgame for White.) 18.♕xe4 ♖e8 (18... ♗f6 19.♗d3 g6 20.c3±) 19.♕f3 ♘b4 20.c3 ♘c6 21.♗c5 ♗e7 22.♕f5 ♘a4 23.♗e3±

b) 14... ♕c7 15.c3 ♘c4 (15... ♘bxd5? 16.♖xd5 ♕c6 17.c4 ♘xd5 18.♕xd5±) 16.♗c1 b5 (16... ♕d7 17.♗d3 ♖c7 18.♖hg1± With the plan h4 and g5!) 17.h4 h5 (17... b4 18.cxb4 e4 19.♕e2 ♘e5 20.g5 hxg5 21.♗xg5± and White is pawn up and has a great position.) 18.g5 ♘g4 19.♗h3 a5 20.♗xg4 hxg4 21.♕xg4 b4 22.cxb4 axb4 (22... a4 23.♘d2±) 23.h5±;

c) 14... ♘c4 15.h4 ♘xe3 16.fxe3± Chopy (1946)–Necromant/ playchess.com INT 2008/;



14... ♕c7

Logical answer, time to create a target in the queenside!

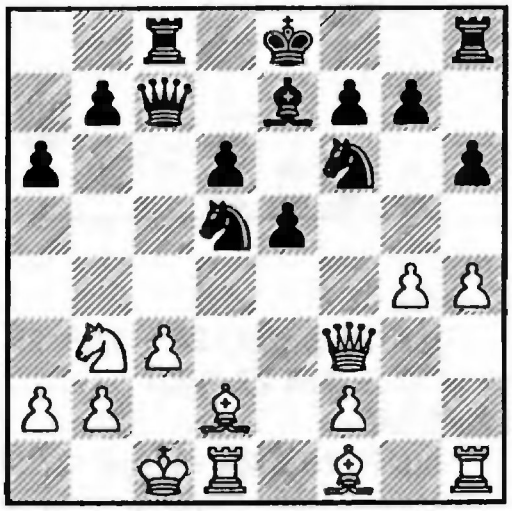
14... e4 15.♕g2! ♘fxd5 (15... ♘bxd5 16.♗d2 ♕c7 17.c3 h5 18.g5 ♘g4 19.♕xe4 ♘b6 20.♗h3 ♘xf2 21.♕d4 ♘xh1 22.♕xg7 ♖f8 23.♖xh1± And a terrible position for Black. No chance to escape.) 16.♗d2 ♕c7 (16... ♘c4 17.♕xe4 ♕c7 18.g5±; 16... 0-0 17.g5↑)

17.c3 ♘c4 18.♕xe4 ♘xd2 (18... ♘f6 19.♕g2 d5 20.♗d3±) 19.♘xd2 ♘f6 20.♕e2±; 14... ♘fd7 15.♘d2 ♕c7 (15... ♗xh4 16.♘e4 ♗e7 17.g5± Destroying the black wall.) 16.♗d3 And white's position is just better.

15.c3 ♘bxd5

15... h5?! 16.g5 ♘g4 17.g6 With strong initiative.

16.♗d2



16.♖xd5? ♕c6 17.♕f5 g6 18.♖xd6 gxf5 19.♖xc6 ♖xc6∓

16... ♘b6

⌓16... ♘b4! With this move, white doesn't have an idea with Qh3 like in the game. 17.g5 ♘d7 18.g6 **a)** 18.gxh6 gxh6 19.♔b1 ♕c6 20.♕g2 (20.♕h3?? ♕e4+-+) 20... ♘f6 21.f3 ♖c7 22.♘c1 ♘bd5∞; **b)** 18.♔b1 ♕c6! 19.♗g2 ♕xf3 20.♗xf3 ♘c6 21.gxh6 gxh6 22.h5 f5= and Black is OK, having a strong center and a safe king.; 18... ♕c6!? 19.gxf7+ ♔f8 20.♕xc6 ♘xc6 21.♗e3 ♘f6 22.♗h3 ♖b8 23.f4 ♔xf7∞

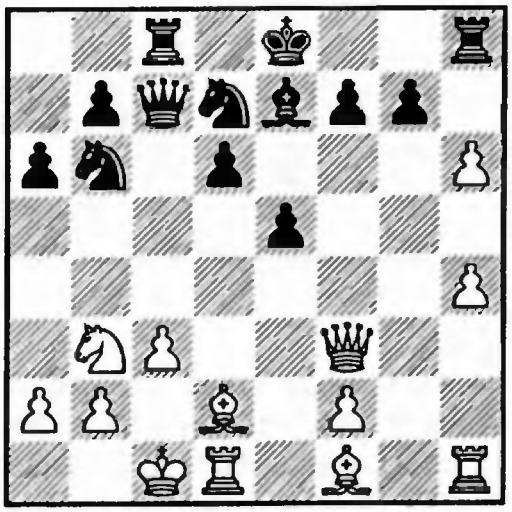
17.g5

It was time, after this shy Nb6, and Kamsky decided to open the lines with g5!

17... ♘fd7

17... hxg5 18.hxg5 ♖xh1 19.♕xh1 ♘fd7 20.♔b1 (20.♗g2 d5 21.g6!?±) 20... ♘f8 21.f4± With a good position for White. Pair of bishop will become very strong against this poor king.

18.gxh6



18... gxh6

18... g6 Interesting conception by Black! Also closing the "g" file. 19.h5 g5 20.♕f5 ♕c6 21.♗e2 d5 22.♖hg1± Well, difficult to judge, it looks like Black should be OK.

19.♔b1

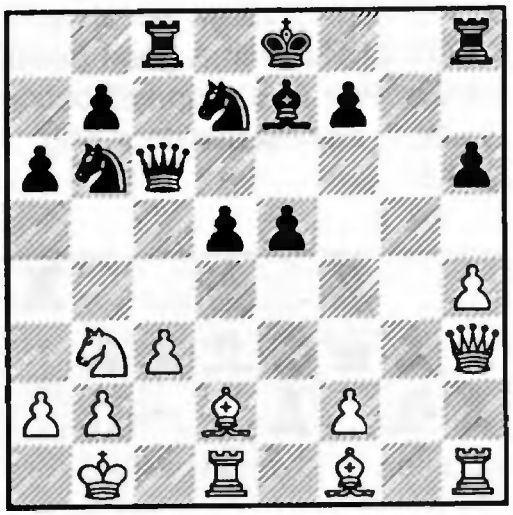
⌓19.♗h3! ♕c6 (19... ♘c4 20.♔b1 a5 21.♗c1 a4 22.♘d2±) 20.♕f5 ♘c4 (20... a5 21.♔b1 a4 22.♘a1± Then Nc2.) 21.♔b1 ♖c7 22.♗c1 h5 23.♖he1 ♘f6 24.♘d4!±

19... ♕c6∞

Gelfand is asking for the exchange of the queens. I think Kamsky will decline! 19... ♘c4 20.♖g1 ♕c6 21.♕e2

♘f6 22.♗h3 ♖c7 23.♗f5 d5 24.♗c1 b5∞ was an interesting alternative for Black.

20.♕h3 d5



21.♗e2

21.f4!? e4 22.♗e3 ♖g8 (22... ♔d8?! 23.♘a5!±) 23.♘d4 (23.h5 ♕e6∞) 23... ♕f6 24.♗e2 ♔d8 25.♗g4 ♗c5= Gelfand's position looks very solid. Of course, the position is still very complicated. For example 26.b4 and the crazy game continues!

21... ♘c4 22.♗c1

Kamsky continues his plan, each piece has one place, and he is waiting for a blunder also. For Gelfand, this position is very difficult to play, he has to be focused on each move.

22.f4!? e4 23.♗xc4 ♕xc4 24.♖hg1 ♘f6 25.♗e3 ♕c6 26.♗d4 ♕e6 27.f5 ♕d6 28.♕e3 h5 29.♖g5± I like white's position, many interesting maneuvers are possible!

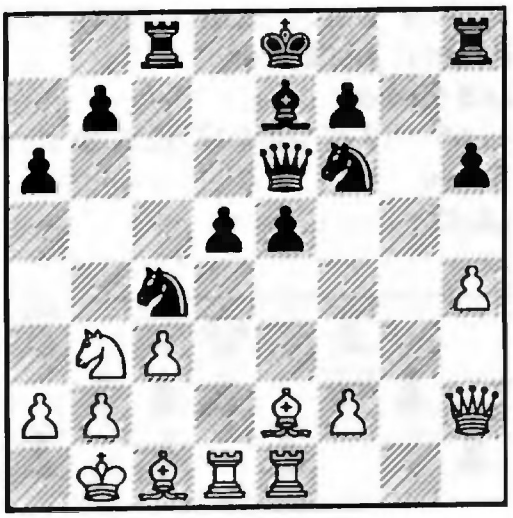
22... ♘f6 23.♖he1

Rooks in center...

23... ♕e6

23... b5!? 24.♗d3 ♖d8 25.f3∞ was playable for boths sides.

24.♕h2



24... ♕f5+

24... ♘g4 25.♕g2!±; 24... ♖g8 25.f3 ♘d7 26.♗d3 ♕c6 27.♘d2±

25.♔a1 ♔f8

25... ♘g4? 26.♗xg4 ♕xg4 27.f4!↑ Aouah! Such a nice position, near the paradise for White! The rooks looking directly at the king. And this move f4, opening the "e" file.

26.f3

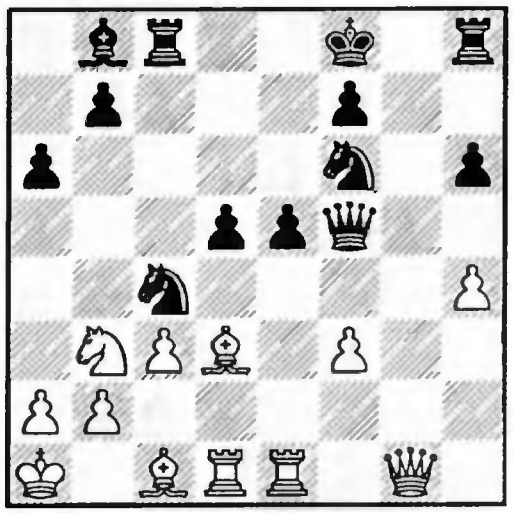
26.♗d3!? ♕h5 (26... e4 27.♘d4 ♕d7 28.♗xc4 ♖xc4 29.f3±) 27.♕h3 ♘d6 28.f3±

26... ♗d6 27.♕g1 ♗b8?

In a very messy position, black makes a blunder.

27... ♕d7! 28.♗f1 (28.♗xc4 ♖xc4 29.♕f2 b5∞) 28... b5∞

28.♗d3±



28... ♕h5?!

28... ♕d7 29.f4! Of course! Now Black is under pressure! 29... ♖g8 (29... e4 30.♗xe4 ♘xe4 31.♖xe4 ♖g8 32.♕d4±) 30.♕f2 exf4 31.♕d4 ♖c6 32.♗xf4 ♖g4 33.♗xh6+ ♔g8 34.♖g1±

29.♕h1?

What a sad move... So passive. Really weird coming from Kamsky. But zeitnot is coming and both players are tired after such a complicated game.

⌓29.♗xc4! This time, this move was simply a winning one! 29... dxc4 (29... ♖xc4? 30.♕b6+−) 30.♕b6 And the queen is coming inside the black's lines. 30... ♕f5 (30... ♕xf3 31.♕b4+ ♔e8 32.♘d4!+−) 31.♘c5+−

29... ♗a7?!

29... ♖g8 30.♗e2 ♕g6∞ And Black is back to business!

30.♕h3?!

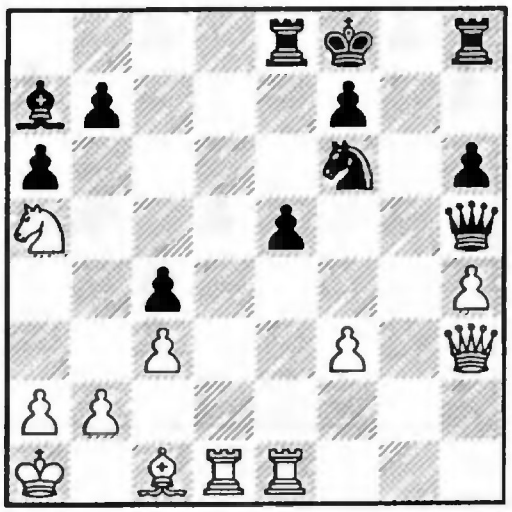
30.♕h2! ♖e8 31.♗xc4 dxc4 32.♘d2 b5 33.♘e4 ♘xe4 34.fxe4 ♖e6 35.♖f1± Gelfand is pawn up, but his position is really difficult. His king is really weak, and Kamsky will penetrate with his rook in d7 or d8.

30... ♖e8 31.♗xc4

Finally!

31... dxc4 32.♘a5?!

32.♘d2± With the idea to play Ne4 and just get a great position.



32... e4!

Super reaction by Gelfand. He knew that he will get one chance to come back, and he didn't miss it. Now the Queen h5 is alive! **33.♘xc4 ♕xf3** It's crazy how this game is going. Now Kamsky is in a bad situation.

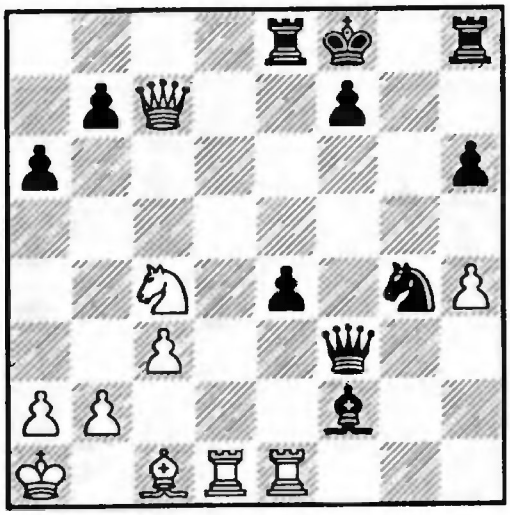
33... exf3 It was maybe a good choice for Gelfand. Because with a pawn on f2, Kamsky will be in trouble and has to play very accurately. 34.♖f1 (34.♖xe8+ ♘xe8 35.♖d8 ♔g7 36.♕g3+ ♔h7 37.♕f4 f2 38.♘e3 ♘g7∞) 34... f2 35.♘d6 ♖d8 36.c4! ♘e4 37.♖d5∞ This position is very unclear, it looks like a dynamic balance. For example :

34.♕h2 ♘g4

34... ♗f2 35.♖f1 ♘g4 36.♕d6+ ♔g7 37.♕d5 b5 38.♘d6 ♖e5 39.♕b7 ♖f8 40.♖d2∞ super sharp position, but I

would prefer to play it with black. The pawn e4 looks dangerous for Kamsky.

35.♕c7 ♗f2



36.♖f1?!

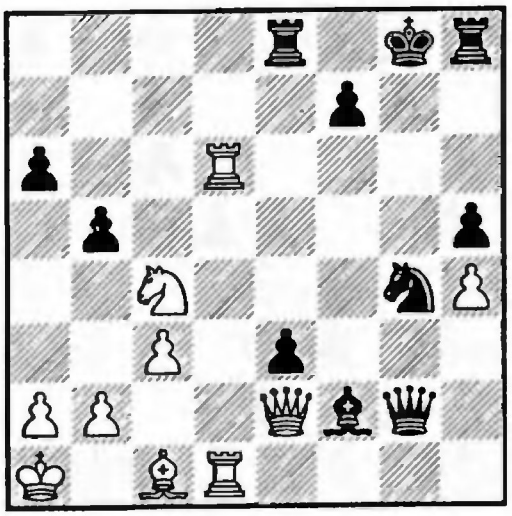
Not the best, but I can understand, this 36.♖g1 was not an easy one to find.

⌓36.♖g1! ♗xg1 37.♖xg1 e3 38.♗xe3 (38.♕d6+ ♔g8 39.♘xe3 h5 40.♕c5 ♕e4∓; 38.♘d6 ♖a8 39.♘xf7 ♖h7 40.♕c5+ ♔xf7 41.♕c4+=) 38... ♘xe3 39.♕c5+ ♖e7 40.♕c8+ ♖e8 41.♕c5+=

36... e3! 37.♗xe3?

Another blunder in this game!

37.♕d6+ ♔g8 38.♕d3 (38.♕d7 ♖e6 39.♘xe3 ♘xe3 40.♕d8+ ♔g7 41.♕d4+ ♔h7 42.♕d3+ ♕e4 43.♖xf2 ♘xd1 44.♕d7 ♖he8 45.♖xf7+ ♔h8 46.♕xd1 ♕xh4∓) 38... ♕g3 (38... ♕c6 39.♕e2 h5 40.♖d6 ♕g2 41.♖fd1 (41.♖dd1 ♖h6 42.♘xe3 ♕g3 43.♘xg4 ♖xe2 44.♘xh6+ ♔h7 45.♘xf7 ♕xh4∓) 41... b5



42.♖6d5! bxc4 43.♖g5+ ♔f8 44.b3 ♖c8 45.♗a3+ ♔e8 46.♖d4! f5 47.♖xf5 ♖c6 48.♖fd5↑) 39.♕d7 ♘f6 40.♕d4 e2 41.♕xf6 exd1♕ 42.♖xd1 ♗c5∓

37... ♘xe3-+

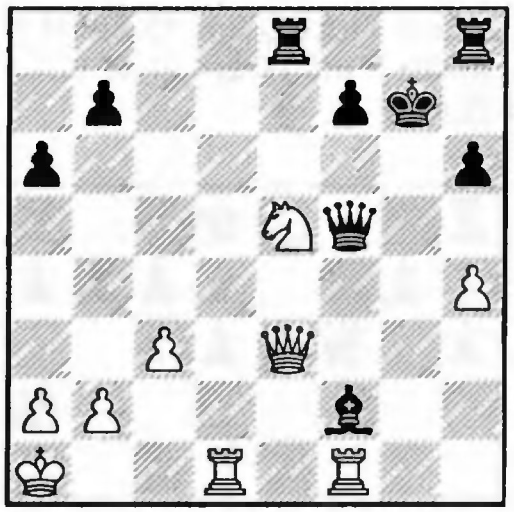
Now Gelfand is winning! Amazing, since 10 moves Kamsky was not at his top. And finally he blundered. Such an intense game!

38.♘e5 ♕f5?

The final blunder of this crazy game.

⌓38... ♕h5! 39.♖d7 (39.♕c5+ ♔g8 40.♖g1+ ♗xg1 41.♖xg1+ ♔h7 42.♕xe3 ♕xe5-+ winning a rook.) 39... ♕xe5 40.♖xf7+ ♔g8 41.♖1xf2 ♕xc7 42.♖xc7 ♘g4 43.♖f1 ♖h7-+ and an easy endgame to win.

39.♕c5+ ♔g7 40.♕xe3!



Gelfand forgot about this move, it was the difference with ♕h5. Now the queen is hanging in f5...

40... ♖xe5

40... ♗xe3 41.♖xf5 ♖e7 42.♖df1 ♖f8 43.♔b1 ♗a7=

41.♕xf2 ♕xf2 42.♖xf2

This endgame is a dead draw.

42... ♖he8 43.♖g1+ ♔f8 44.♔b1 ♖e2 45.♖f4 ♖8e4 46.♖gf1 ♖e1+ 47.♔c2 ♖4e2+ 48.♔b3 ♖xf1 49.♖xf1 ♔g7 50.♖f4 ♖e6 51.a4 ♔g6 52.♔c4 f5 53.a5 ♔f6 54.♔d3 ♖e7 ½-½ *[S.Maze]*

(16) [B90]

☐ **Kamsky,G (2732)**

■ **Topalov,V (2775)**

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (1.1), 05.05.2011

Kamsky played an early novelty (7.a5!?), this move did not promise an edge for White, but I guess that Kamsky wanted to avoid Topalov's preparation and let him think by himself on the board. After some inaccurate moves in the middle game, the Bulgarian player managed to draw quite easily in the endgame.

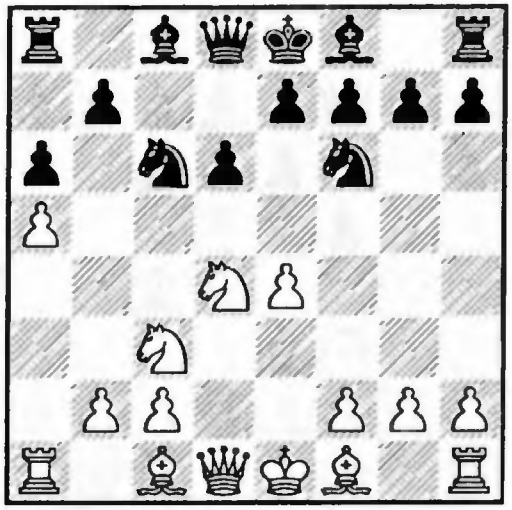
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6

The Najdorf Sicilian, was actually the opening Kamsky had expected Topalov to play.

6.a4 ♘c6

6... e5 Two days later, in the third game of the match, Topalov decided to play the main move 6..e5. 7.♘f3 ♗e7 8.♗g5 ♗e6 9.♗xf6 ♗xf6 10.♘d5 ♘d7 And black's position is fine. Kamsky–Topalov 2011

7.a5N



As usually in his games with Topalov, Kamsky wanted to avoid his opponent's preparation. When I saw the move 7.a5, I was surprised because it didn't look really natural for White. The main idea of this novelty is to put a piece in b6. Also there is one interesting question: Can we take the pawn a5?

7... e6

7... ♘xa5 8.♘d5 ♘c6 9.♘xf6+ exf6 10.♗c4 (10.♗b5 ♕c7 11.0-0 ♗e7 12.♘xc6 bxc6 13.♗d3 0-0=) 10... ♘xd4 11.♕xd4 ♗e6 12.♗d5 ♕d7 13.0-0 ♗e7 14.♖d1 0-0= After analysis, we can say that 7... ♘xa5 is completely OK for Black.

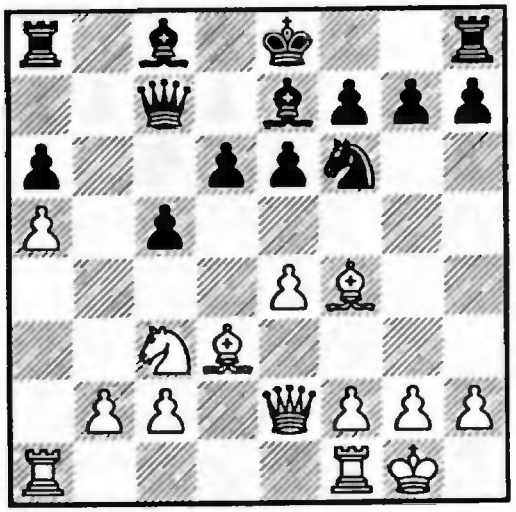
8.♘xc6 bxc6 9.♗d3 ♗e7 10.0-0

Here, Black could have chosen a different set up. Topalov goes for

10... c5

but 10... 0-0 11.f4 d5 was also a decent choice. 12.e5 ♘d7 13.♕h5 g6 14.♕h6 ♖e8=

11.♗f4 ♕c7 12.♕e2



12... ♗b7?!

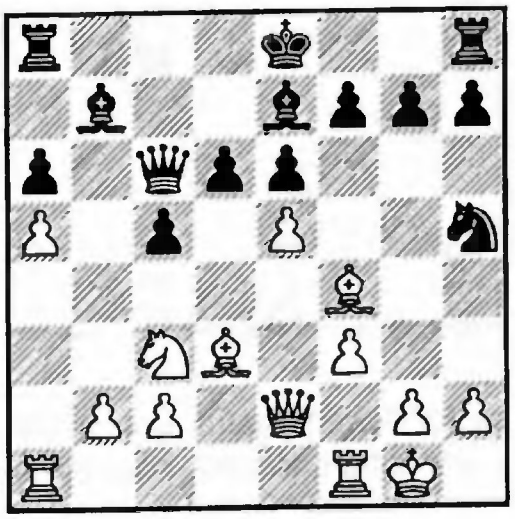
Topalov should have avoided the thematic move e5. That's why 12... ♘d7 looks natural. The continuation could have been 13.♘d1 0-0 14.♘e3 ♗b7 15.♘c4∞ With a small edge for White.

13.e5

Now Kamsky manages to seize the initiative.

13... ♕c6

13... dxe5 14.♗xe5 ♗d6 15.♗b5+! ♔e7 16.♗xd6+ ♕xd6 17.♗c4 ♖hd8 18.♘a4± **14.f3 ♘h5**



14... dxe5 15.♗xe5 0-0 16.♖a4±

15.♗d2± c4

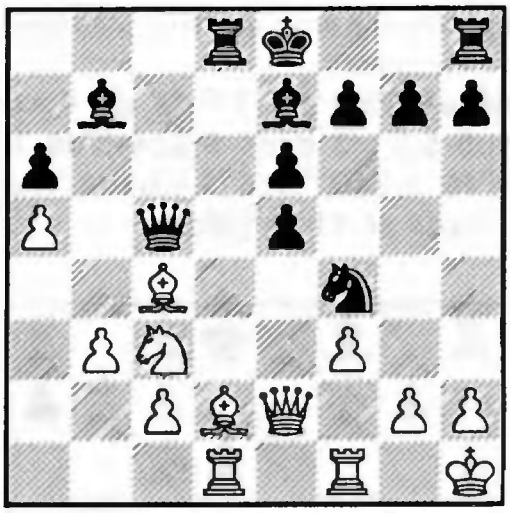
An interesting reaction from Topalov. Instead of playing a slightly worse position, he goes for complications, with balanced chances. y 15... dxe5 16.♕xe5 ♘f6 17.♖a4 ♕d6 18.♕xd6 ♗xd6±

16.♗xc4 dxe5 17.b3

17.♗b3!? was better than 17.b3. 17... ♕c7 (17... 0-0 18.♕xe5 ♘f6 19.♗f4±) 18.♗a4+ ♔f8 19.♗e3 ♕xa5 20.♕f2 ♘f6 21.♗b3 ♕c7 22.♗b6 ♕b8 23.♖ad1⩱

17... ♖d8 18.♖ad1 ♕c5+ 19.♔h1 ♘f4

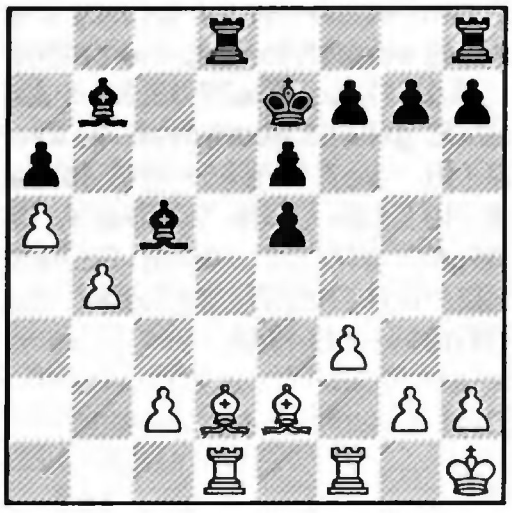
Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs



20.♘a4

20.♗xf4!? exf4 21.♗xa6! (21.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 22.♘e4 ♗xe4 23.♕xe4 ♕xa5 24.♕xf4 ♕b6 25.♖d1 a5=) 21... ♗xa6 22.♕xa6 ♕xc3 (22... 0-0 23.♘e4 ♕xc2 24.♖xd8 ♖xd8 25.♕b6±) 23.♕b5+ ♔f8 24.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 25.a6 ♗c7 26.a7 ♔e7 27.♕a6 ♕xc2 28.a8♕ ♖xa8 29.♕xa8 ♕xb3=

20... ♘xe2 21.♘xc5 ♗xc5 22.♗xe2 ♔e7 23.b4

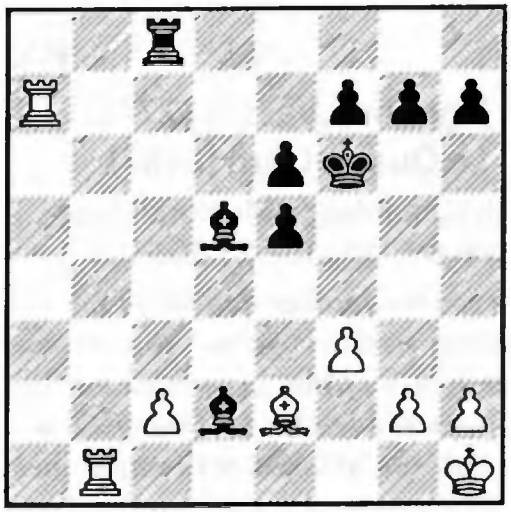


23.♗d3 This move was clearly better than the move of the game. Now the idea is to play b3−b4 followed by c2−c4. And the White pawns are becoming very dangerous. 23... ♖c8 24.b4 ♗d4 25.c4± ♔d6 26.♗e1 ♔c7 27.f4 f6 28.fxe5 ♗xe5 29.♗f2±

23... ♖xd2!

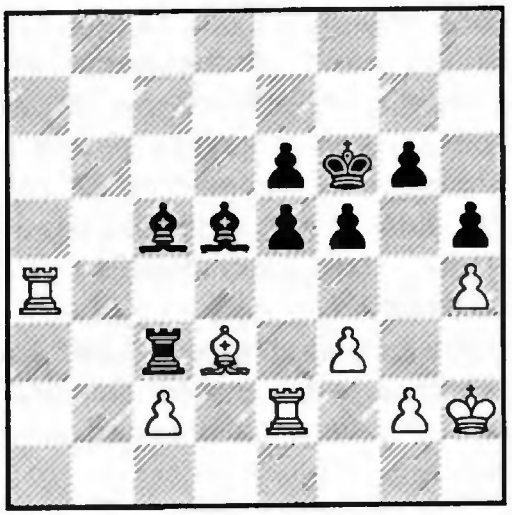
Topalov took his chance and sacrificed the exchange for Bishop pair and a pawn. This way, he obtained a safe position.

24.♖xd2 ♗xb4 25.♖d3 ♗d5 26.♖b1 ♗xa5 27.♖a3 ♗d2 28.♖xa6 ♖c8= 29.♖a7+ ♔f6



Black obtains a solid position, and gets enough compensation for the exchange. It will be an easy draw.

30.♗d3 ♗e3 31.♖a4 h5 32.♖ab4 ♖c3 33.h4 g6 34.♔h2 ♔g7 35.♖a4 f5 36.♖e1 ♗c5 37.♖e2 ♔f6 38.♖e1 ♗f2 39.♖e2 ♗c5 40.♖e1 ♗f2 41.♖e2 ♗c5



½-½ *[S.Maze]*

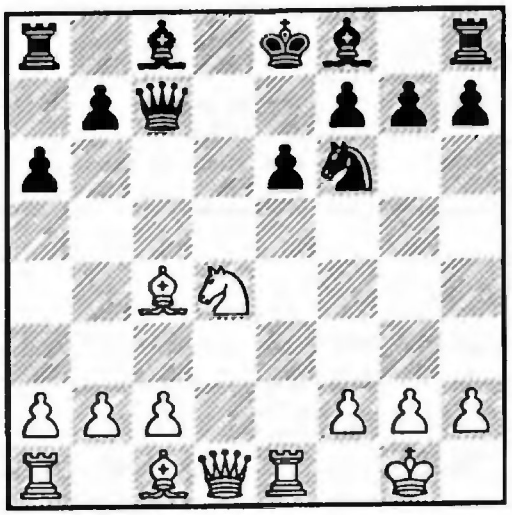
(17) [C07]

☐ Ivanchuk,Vassily (2776)
■ Le,Quang Liem (2687)

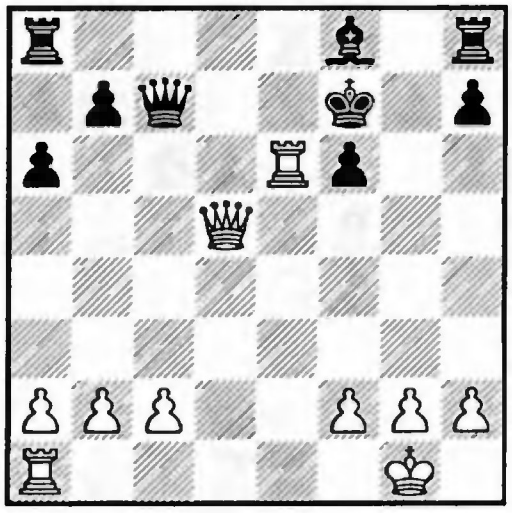
46th Capablanca Memorial Elite
Havana CUB (10), 21.05.2011

Are you ready, dear Reader, to see a true, exciting decisive game? It was exactly the case of this last round encounter between the leader Le Quang Liem and the half-point follower Vassily Ivanchuk. The Ukranian chose 1.e4 to try his luck and soon we arise at a typical half-open position of the Tarrasch French. Black's play is accurate and if he had just chosen the right idea... Well, one inaccuracy was enough to allow Ivanchuk to show his remarkable Capablanca Memorial technique! Probably, the principle 15.♗h4 was the best way in the opening to get an advantage. With 24... ♗d6?! Black begins move in the wrong direction, instead 24... ♘f2 gives equality. And with the fatal error on 25... ♘g3? Black doesn't have any more chances to save the game.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 c5 4.exd5 ♕xd5 5.♘gf3 cxd4 6.♗c4 ♕d6 7.0-0 ♘f6 8.♘b3 ♘c6 9.♘bxd4 ♘xd4 10.♘xd4 a6 11.♖e1 ♕c7



So far we are just following a well worked out theoretical main line of the Tarrasch. White enjoys a free development and the long-term asset of a queenside majority. But using his extra pawn in the center, usually Black is active enough to keep the balance. 11... ♗d7 12.♗g5 ♕c7? 13.♗xe6 ♗xe6 14.♗xf6 gxf6 15.♘xe6 fxe6 16.♖xe6+ ♔f7 (16... ♗e7 17.♕h5+ ♔f8 18.♖ae1 ♖e8 19.♖xf6+ ♗xf6 20.♖xe8+ ♔g7 21.♕g4+ ♔f7 (21... ♔h6 22.♖e3+-) 22.♕e6+ ♔g7 23.♖xh8 ♔xh8 24.♕xf6++-) 17.♕d5



17... ♔g7 (17... ♖d8!? 18.♖d6+ ♔e8 19.♖e1+ ♗e7 20.♕h5+ (20.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 21.♕xb7 ♔f7 22.♕xa6) 20... ♔f8 21.♖de6 ♖d7) 18.♕f5 Was a clearly less accurate way to prepare 0-0-0 18... ♗e7 19.♖ae1 ♖he8 20.♕e4 ♔f8 21.♕xh7 ♖ad8 22.h4 ♕c5 23.h5 1-0, Shytaj-Malakhatko, Artic Chess Challenge 2009;

11... ♗e7

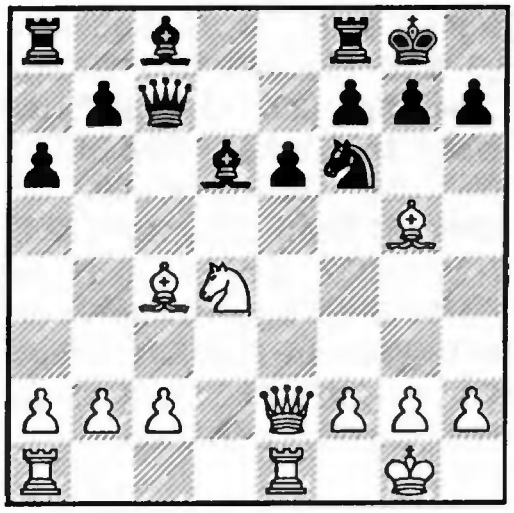
12.♕e2!?

An important nuance of this move is to eye the a6 pawn as a target, though it is not already sure that e2 is the best square for the queen.

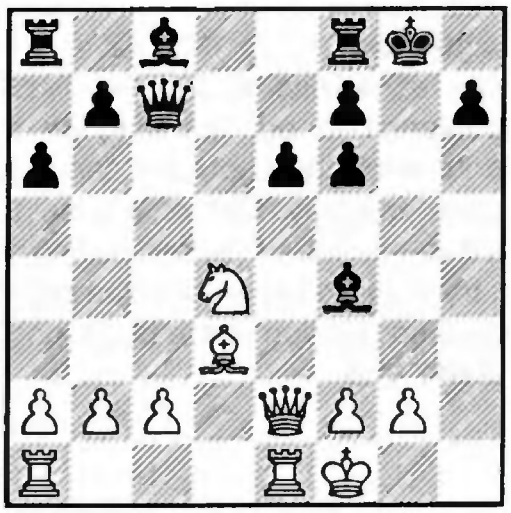
12.♗b3 Is quite more popular. 12... ♗d6 13.♘f5 ♗xh2+ 14.♔h1 0-0 15.♘xg7 ♖d8 16.♕f3 ♔xg7 17.♗h6+ ♔g6 Is a well known forced line. After 18.c3 ♘h5 (18... ♘d5 19.♖ad1 f5 20.♗c1→ Adams-Dreev, Wijk aan Zee 1996) 19.♗e3 f5 20.g4⩱ White attack was very dangerous in Rublevsky-Ivanov, RUS ch Elista 1997

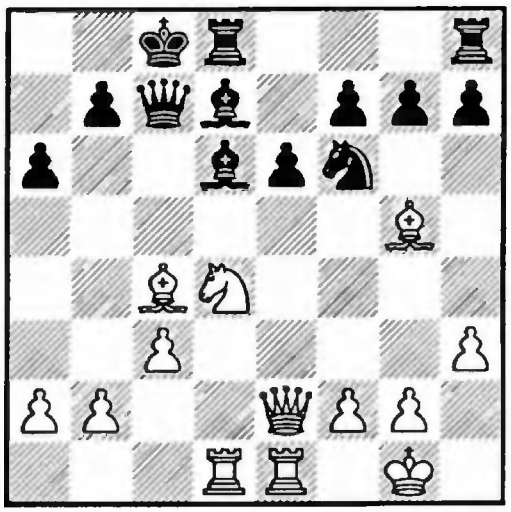
12... ♗d7

12... ♗d6 13.♗g5!? 0-0



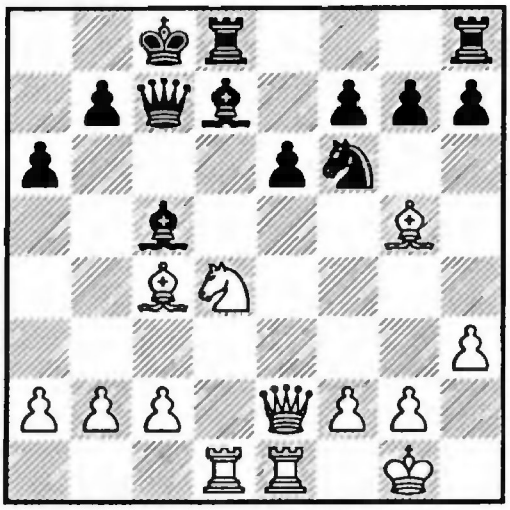
14.h3 (14.♗xf6!? gxf6 15.♗d3 (15.♕g4+ ♔h8 16.♕h4 ♗e7 17.♘f5?! was a... winning bluff in Burg-Sarakauskas, Cappelle La Grande 2006: 17... exf5 18.♖e3 ♖g8 19.♗xf7 ♖g7?? (19... ♖g4!-+) 20.♕xf6!) 15... ♗xh2+ 16.♔h1 (16.♔f1!? Can be more precise, not giving away the target for the black, white-squares bishop after the move g3. 16... ♗f4 17.g3 ♖d8 18.c3 ♗h6 19.♕h5 ♗g7 20.♗xh7+ ♔f8 21.♖ad1 ♗d7 22.♔g1 ♖ac8 23.♗e4 ♖b8 24.♗f3 b6 25.♔g2 f5 26.♕g5 ♗a4 27.b3 ♗e8 28.♖xe6! Giri-Wiedenkeller, EU-Cup, Ohrid 2009) 16... ♗f4





16... h6 17.♗e3 ♔b8 18.♗b3 g5 19.♕f3 ♗h2+ 20.♔h1 ♗f4 21.♗xf4 gxf4 22.♕e2⇄ Timofeev–Akopian, EU Cup, Fuegen 2006

15.h3!?

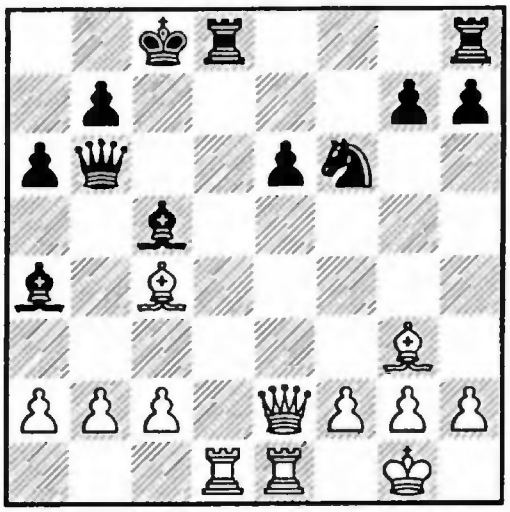


A good prophylaxis from many points of view. White takes control of the g4 square, opens a "window" for the king and stops any further threats against the h2 pawn.

15.♗h4 This was the more principle answer, with the idea to follow with the powerful ♗g3. But... In that case a good answer could be: 15... e5! If:

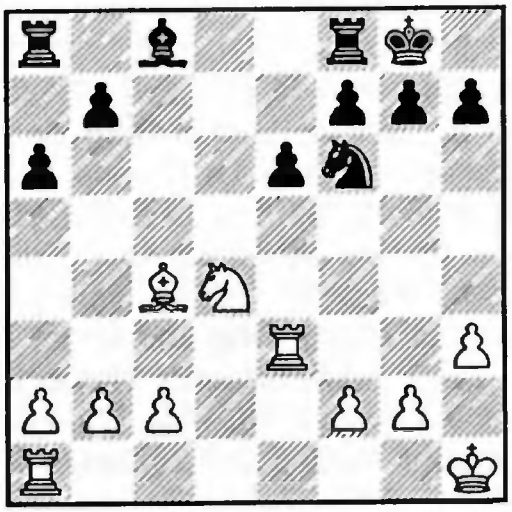
a) 15... ♗d6 16.♗xa6! ♗xh2+ 17.♔h1 ♗f4 18.♖d3 ♕b6 19.♖c3+ ♔b8 20.♗xb7 ♕xd4 21.♖b3 ♗a4 22.♗f3+ ♗xb3 (22... ♔c7 23.♖b7+ ♔d6) 23.♕b5+ with a mate.;

b) 15... ♗a4? Like in our game 16.♗g3 ♕b6 (16... ♗d6? 17.♘xe6! fxe6 18.♕xe6+ ♗d7 19.♕xd6) 17.♘xe6! ♖xd1! (17... fxe6



18.♗xe6+! (18.♕e5? ♗xf2+ 19.♗xf2 ♕xf2+ 20.♔xf2 ♘g4+ 21.♔g3 ♘xe5) 18... ♗d7 19.♖xd7! ♘xd7 20.♕e5 ♕d6 21.♕xd6 ♗xd6 22.♗xd6 ♖he8 23.f4±) 18.♖xd1 ♖e8 (18... fxe6 19.b4!!

17.♕g4+!? ♔h8? (17... ♗g5 18.g3 h6!) 18.g3 ♗d6 19.♗xh7! ♕c5 20.♔g2?! (20.♖e4! ♕g5 (20... f5 21.♗xf5! exf5 22.♕h4+ ♔g7 23.♕g5+ ♔h8 24.♖h4#) 21.♕h3 ♔g7 22.♘f3+−) 20... ♕g5 21.♕h3 (21.♖e4!) 21... ♔g7 22.♖h1 ♗d7! 23.♘f3? ♗c6 24.♖ad1 ♗e5 25.♖d7!? f5! 26.♗g8? ♗xf3+ 27.♔xf3 ♕g4+!-+ Wittman−Pap, First Saturday 2005) 14... ♗h2+ 15.♔h1 ♗f4 16.♗xf4 ♕xf4 17.♕e3 ♕xe3 18.♖xe3

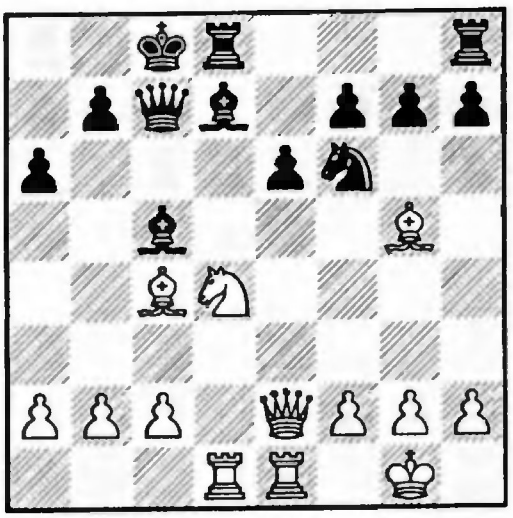


Black is OK in this endgame. Vachier Lagrave−Hou Yifan, FRA−CHN, Villandry 2009

13.♗g5 0-0-0

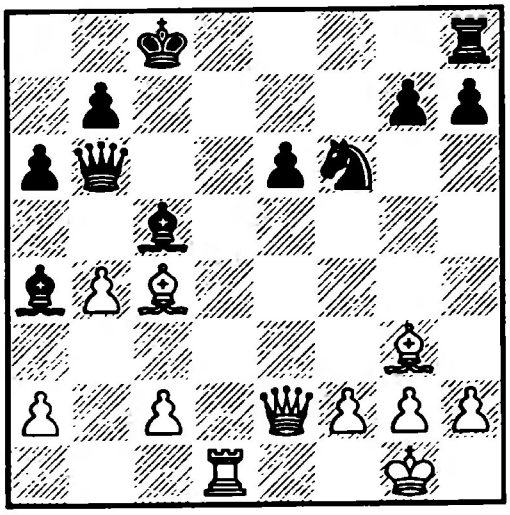
It was an advice of the very same Capablanca to put the king on the side in which the opponent can enjoy a pawn majority. But of course the board is still full of pieces and White can try to exploit somehow the slightly weakened position of the black king.

14.♖ad1 ♗c5

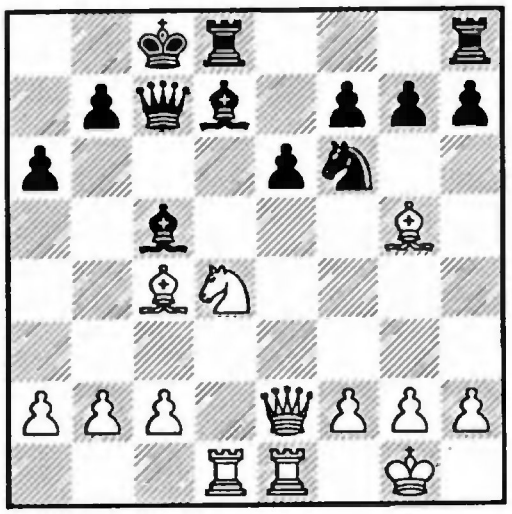


14... ♗d6?! 15.♗xa6! Show how carefully Black should handle the dark−squares bishop development.;

14... ♗b4!? Never tried before, it seems a logical move, with intention to trade the dark−squares bishops (wich should favour White in a positional sense) and refusing to close the useful third rank for a rook lift. 15.c3 (15.♗d2!? Never tried before, it seems a logical move, with intention to trade the dark−squares bishops (wich should favour White in a positional sense) and refusing to close the useful third rank for a rook lift. 15... ♗d6 (15... ♗xd2 16.♖xd2 ♖he8 17.♖ed1 e5 18.♘b3 ♗g4 19.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 20.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 21.♕d2+ ♔e8 (21... ♔c8 22.♕b4!) 22.♕b4±) 16.h3 ♔b8 17.♘b3 ♗c6 18.♗a5 b6 19.♗c3 ♘e4 20.♗d4 a5 21.♗e3 And White can try to use the weakness provoked by the bishop on the queenside.) 15... ♗d6 16.h3



(19.♗xe6+? ♗d7 20.♕e5 ♗xf2+ 21.♗xf2 ♕xe6) 19... ♕xb4 20.♗xe6+ ♗d7 21.♕e5 ♗d6 22.♗xd7+ ♘xd7 23.♕xd6 ♕xd6 24.♗xd6±) 19.♕e5 ♗xf2+ 20.♗xf2 ♕xf2+ 21.♔xf2 ♘g4+ 22.♔g1 ♘xe5 23.♘xg7 ♘xc4 (23... ♖g8 24.♘f5+−) 24.♘xe8 ♗xe8 25.b3±;



c) 15... e5! 16.♕xe5 (16.♗g3 ♗g4 We can see how important is the g4 square in this line. 17.♘f3 ♖xd1 18.♖xd1 ♖e8 19.♕d3 e4 20.♕d2 e3 21.♕xe3 ♗xe3 22.♗xc7 ♔xc7 23.fxe3 ♗xf3 24.gxf3 ♖xe3 25.♔f2 ♖e7=; 16.♘b3 ♗g4 17.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 18.♕xe5 ♕xe5 19.♖xe5 ♖d1+ 20.♗f1 ♗d6 21.♖e3 ♘d5 22.♖d3 ♘b4 23.♖xd1 ♗xd1 24.c3 ♘xa2 25.♘d4 Computer shows small advantage of white, but I have big doubts about it.);

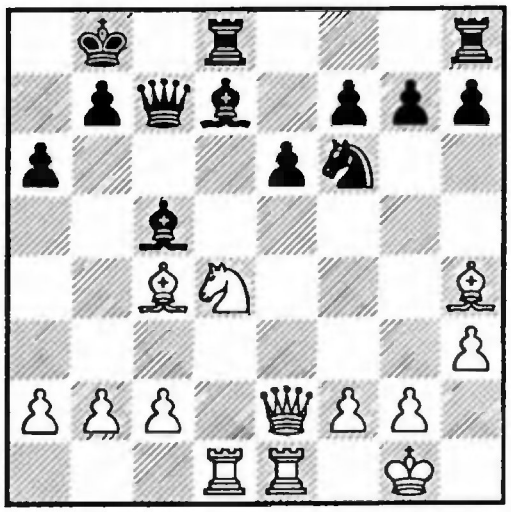
d) 15... ♕b6?! Was played in Palac−Lalic, CRO ch, Rijeka 2009. It followed 16.c3 (16.♘b3! This is the right answer! 16... ♗d6 17.♖xd6! All about dark squares! This is a typical, but still nice, exchange sac! 17... ♕xd6 18.♗g3 ♕b6 19.♕e5 ♗b5 (19... ♗c6 20.♘c5! ♘d7 21.♘xd7 ♔xd7 22.♗xe6+ fxe6 23.♕xe6#) 20.♘c5 ♘d7 21.♘xd7 ♔xd7 22.♗b3! ♕c6 23.♕xg7 ♔c8 24.♕xf7+−) 16... ♗xd4 17.♖xd4 ♗c6 18.♖ed1 ♖xd4 19.♖xd4 ♖d8± 20.♖xd8+ ♕xd8; 16.♗xf6 (16.♕xe5 ♗d6 17.♕e2 ♗xh2+ 18.♔h1 ♗g4⇄) 16... gxf6 17.♘b3 ♗b6 18.♗xf7 ♗c6 19.♗e6+ ♔b8 20.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 21.♖d1 ♖xd1+ (21... ♖f8 22.c4 f5 23.♗d5) 22.♕xd1 a5 With a powerful bishop pair as a compensation for the pawn.

15... ♔b8

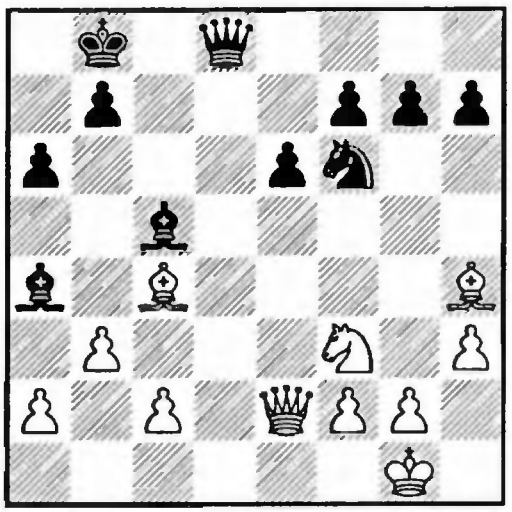
15... e5? 16.♕xe5 ♗xh3 17.♕xc7+ ♔xc7 18.gxh3 ♖xd4 19.♖xd4 ♗xd4 20.♖e7+ ♔b6 21.c3 ♖c8 22.♗d3+−

16.♗h4

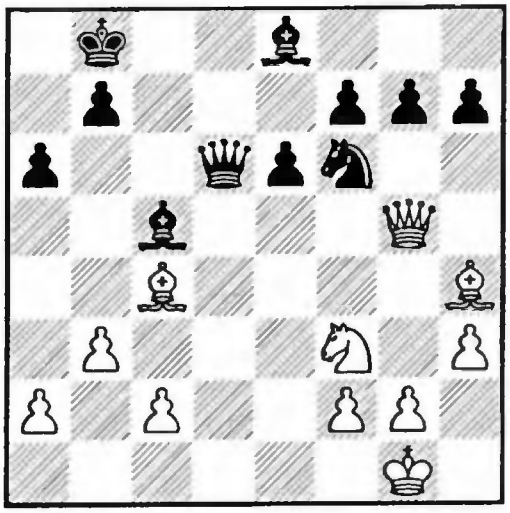
Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs



16... ♗a4!
Using the x-ray pin on the c2 pawn, Black force the knight to move back and can simplify the position.
17.♘f3
17.♗g3 ♗d6 18.♗xd6 ♖xd6 19.♘f3 ♖xd1 20.♖xd1 ♖c8 21.b3 ♗c6 22.♘e5 ♗e4 23.♘d7+ ♘xd7 24.♕xe4=
17... ♖xd1 18.♖xd1 ♖d8 19.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 20.b3



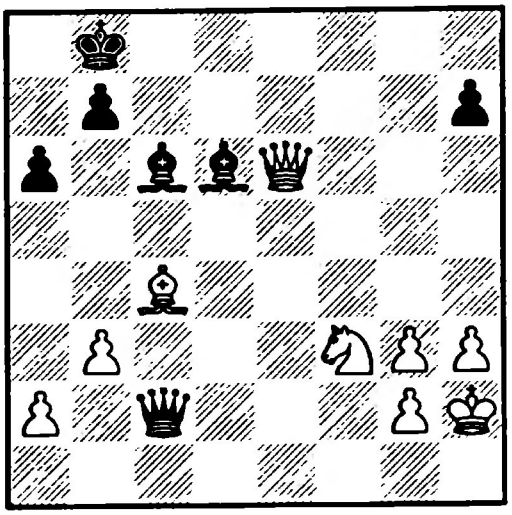
20.♘g5 ♕c7 21.♕d3 (21.♗g3?? ♕xg3) 21... ♔a7 22.♗g3 ♕e7 23.♘xh7 ♘h5 24.♗e5 f6 25.♗d4 e5 26.♗xc5+ ♕xc5
And which one of knights we call Tarrasch's not so hard to guess...
20... ♗e8 21.♕e5+ ♕d6 22.♕g5
22.♗g3 ♕xe5 Not, of course, (22... ♘e4?? 23.♕xc5! (23.♕xe4 ♕xg3) 23... ♕xg3 24.♕e3 winning a piece!) 23.♗xe5+ ♔c8=; 22.♗xf6 gxf6 23.♕xf6 ♕d1+ 24.♗f1 ♕xc2 25.♘e1 ♕f5 26.♕d8+ ♔a7 27.♘d3 ♗c6 28.♘xc5 ♕xc5 29.♕f6 ♕c2 30.♕xf7 ♕d1 31.a4 ♕xb3 32.♕xh7 ♕xa4 This position looks like a draw to me.



22... ♘e4! 23.♕xg7 ♕d1+ 24.♔h2 ♗d6+?!
Begin of the wrong idea.
24... ♘xf2!? 25.♗xf2 (25.♗e2 ♕h1+ 26.♔g3 ♘e4+ 27.♔f4 ♕c1+ 28.♔xe4 ♕e3#) 25... ♗xf2 26.♕h8=
25.♗g3 ♘xg3?
And this move is a clear mistake, almost decisive one.
25... ♘xf2□ 26.♗xd6+ ♕xd6+ 27.♔g1 (27.♕g3 ♔c7 28.♕xd6+ ♔xd6 29.♔g3 ♘e4+ 30.♔f4 ♘c3 31.♗d3 h6 32.a3 f6∓) 27... ♘e4 28.♕h8 ♕d1+ 29.♗f1

♕xc2 30.♕xe8+ ♔a7 31.♔h2 ♕c7+ 32.♔g1 ♕c5+=

26.fxg3 ♗c6 27.♕xf7 ♕xc2 28.♕xe6



Probably, Le Quang Liem was in hard time-trouble, otherwise hard to imagine, what was that he overlooked.

28... ♔c7 29.♗d5!+- ♗d7 30.♕e3 ♕xa2 31.♕c3+ ♔b6 32.♘d2!

In a study-like way, Ivanchuk has trapped the opponent's queen. The game is definitely over.

32... ♗c5 33.♘e4 ♕a3 34.♗xb7!

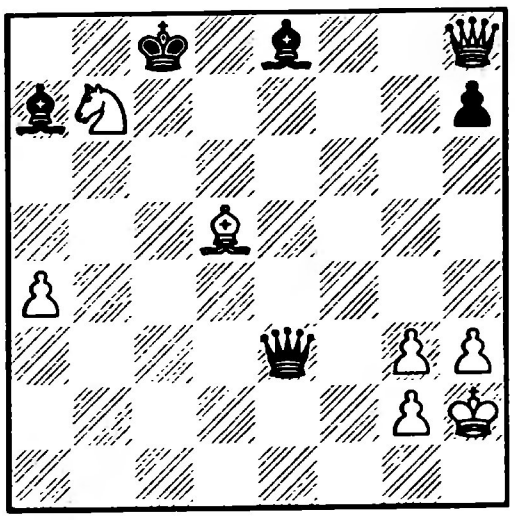
A nice finish!

34... a5 35.♗d5 a4 36.♕f6+

36.♕e5 short way, but in such positions all of them lead to Rome!

36... ♔c7 37.bxa4 ♗a7 38.♕e5+ ♔d8 39.♘d6 ♕e3 40.♘b7+ ♔c8 41.♕h8+ ♗e8 42.♕xe8+!

Petite combinasion...



42... ♕xe8 43.♘d6+ ♔d8 44.♘xe8 ♔xe8 45.a5 ♔e7 46.h4 ♔f6 47.♔h3 ♔f5 48.♗b3 h6 49.a6

What can we add: Black played a nice game, but in critical moment -collapsed, probably due to the big pressure of the last round and btw, when you have to face Ivanchuk, who doesn't let the victory slip out of his hands. **1-0** *[B.Jobava]*

(18) [C13]

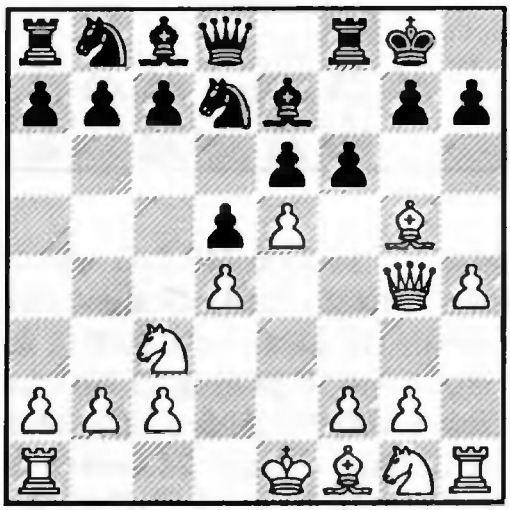
☐ **Hector,J (2588)**

■ **So,W (2667)**

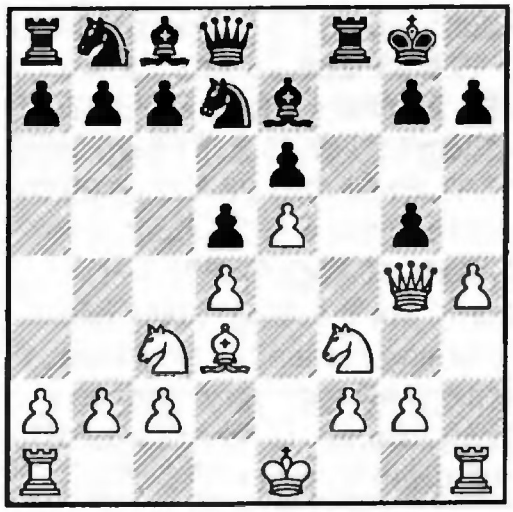
19th Sigeman & Co Malmo SWE (5), 13.06.2011

Interesting game on a relative rare line in French defence 6.h4. White quickly got a big advantage, which they gave away as quickly as they got it, after which position remains very complicated. Hector found a very nice sacrifice, but didn't manage to finish the game in a great style and lost it with a black King ending on f2!

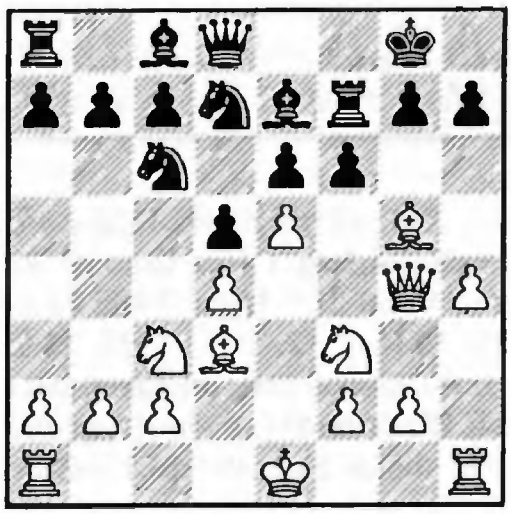
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗g5 ♗e7 5.e5 ♘fd7 6.h4 0-0
Hard to believe, but maybe this is already a big mistake!
Should be the main move here 6... ♘c6
7.♕g4 f6



8.♘f3!?
8.♕xe6+ Also not a bad move for White, but there are better options! 8... ♔h8 9.exf6 (9.♕xd5 fxg5 10.hxg5 ♗xg5 (10... ♘b6 11.♕xd8 ♖xd8 12.♗d3 ♗xg5 13.♘b5! ♘a6 14.♗xh7 ♗h6 15.♗e4±) 11.♗d3 ♗h6 12.♘f3 (12.♘ge2 ♘b6 13.♕e4 ♗f5 14.♕xb7 ♕d7∓) 12... ♘b6 13.♕e4 ♗f5 14.♕xb7 ♗xd3 15.cxd3 ♕e8!∓) 9... ♘xf6 10.♕e2 ♗b4 11.0-0-0 ♗xc3 12.bxc3 ♕d6 13.f3! ♗d7 14.♔b1 ♘c6∞
8... ♖f7
8... fxg5 9.♗d3!



Very nice and typical move 9... ♖f5 (9... gxh4 10.♘xh4 h6 11.♕g6 ♖f5 12.♘xf5 exf5 13.♕e6++−) 10.♘xd5 ♘f8 11.♘xe7+ ♕xe7 12.0-0-0→
9.exf6
9.♗d3! This would have been the strongest move here. Idea is simple and crazy, ♗g6 next! 9... ♘c6



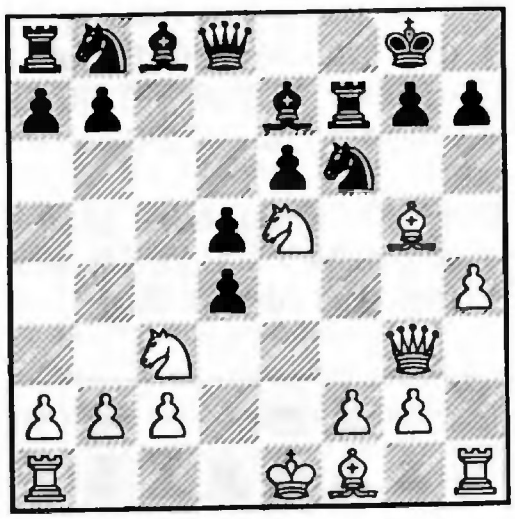
(9... f5 10.♕f4±) 10.♗g6! hxg6 11.h5 gxh5 12.♕xh5 ♖f8 13.♘xd5 ♘xd4 (13... fxg5 14.♘xe7+ ♕xe7 15.♘xg5) 14.♘xd4 ♘xe5 15.♘xe7+ ♕xe7

16.♗d2 ♘c4 17.0-0-0 ♘xd2 18.♖xd2 e5 19.♘b5 ♗e6 20.♖d3 ♖fd8 21.♖g3 ♔f8 22.♕h8+ ♗g8 23.♖h7 ♖d7 24.♖hxg7 ♕xg7 25.♖xg7 ♖xg7 26.♕h6 ♔f7 27.♕h5+ ♔e7 28.♕f3 c6 29.♕a3+ ♔e6 30.♕d6+ ♔f5 31.♘c7±

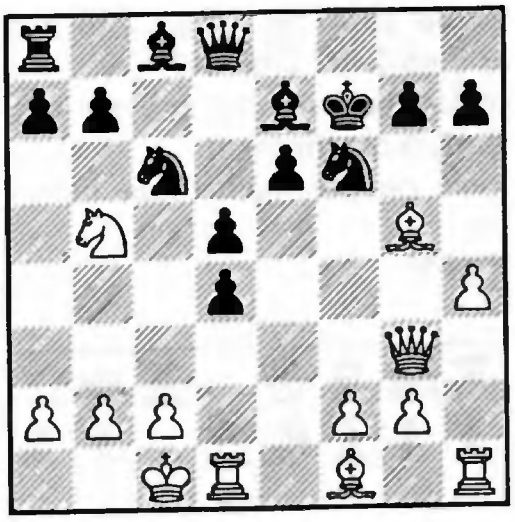
9... ♘xf6 10.♕g3 ♘c6?!

Clearly not the best, Black has to do something urgently otherwise their position will get very bad and very quickly. Better chances would have been given by move 10... c5

10... c5!? 11.♘e5 cxd4



(11... ♖f8 12.h5 cxd4 13.♗h6 ♘e8 14.♗d3 (14.♗xg7) 14... dxc3 15.♗xg7 ♘xg7 16.h6 ♗g5 17.hxg7 ♖f5 18.♗xf5 exf5 19.f4±) 12.♘xf7 ♔xf7 13.♘b5 ♘c6 Position is very unstable, exactly what Black needs, even if objectively White should be better 14.0-0-0

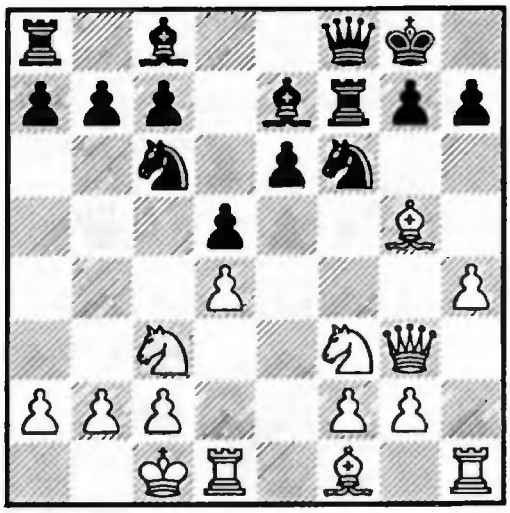


a)14... h6! 15.♗xf6 (15.♗d3 e5 (15... hxg5 16.hxg5 ♘e4 17.♗xe4 dxe4 18.g6+) 16.♗xh6 (16.♗xf6 ♗xf6 17.♕g6+ ♔f8 18.g4 ♘e7 19.♕h7 ♗xg4 20.♖dg1 ♕d7 21.♕h8+ ♘g8 22.♗h7 ♔f7 23.♖xg4 ♕xg4 24.♘d6+ ♔e7 25.♘f5+ ♔d7 26.♗xg8 ♕xf5 27.♗e6+ ♕xe6 28.♕xa8 ♕a6∓) 16... gxh6 17.♕g6+ ♔f8 18.♕xh6+ ♔g8 19.♕g6+ ♔h8 (19... ♔f8 20.h5+−) 20.♕h6+ ♔g8= 21.♖h3? ♗xh3 22.gxh3 ♗f8-+) 15...♗xf6 16.♘d6+ ♔g8 17.♘xc8 ♖xc8 18.♗d3 ♘e5 19.♖he1 ♘xd3+ 20.♕xd3 ♕b6∞ 21.♖e2±

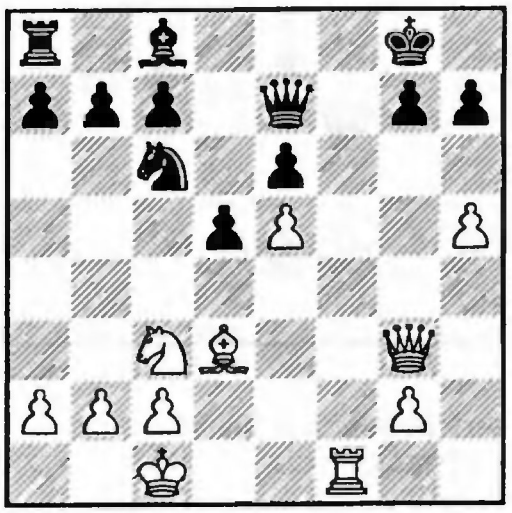
b) 14... ♗c5 15.h5 a6 16.♘c7 (16. h6 g6 17.♗xf6 ♕xf6 18.♘d6+ ♔g8∞) 16... ♖b8 17.h6 ♗d6 (17... g6 18.♗d3 ♗d6 19.♗xg6+! hxg6 20.♕f3±) 18.♕h4 (18.♗xf6 ♗xg3 19.♗xd8 ♗f4+ 20.♔b1 ♘xd8 21.♘e8! g6 (21... ♔xe8 22.hxg7 ♔f7 23.♖xd4±) 22.g3 ♗e5 23.f4±) 18... g6 19.♗xf6 ♕xf6 20.♕xf6+ ♔xf6 21.♘e8+ ♔e7 22.♘xd6 ♔xd6 23.f4±;

c) 14... e5 15.f4 e4 (15... ♘e4 16.♕f3 ♗xg5 17.hxg5 ♔g8 18.g4→);

11.0-0-0 ♕f8

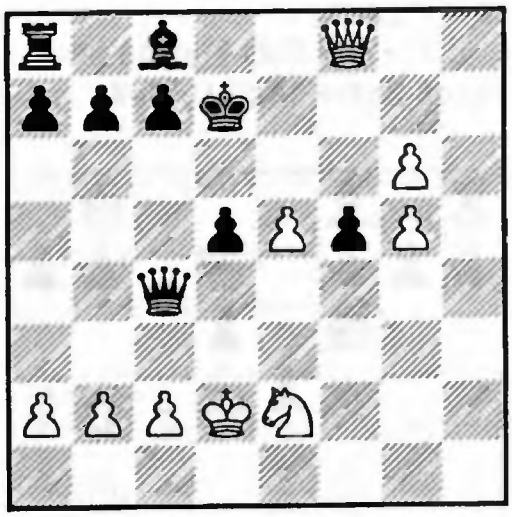


12.h5!±
Good and strong. Now white wants to play ♗d3–g6 and game would be over
12... ♗b4 13.♗xf6??
A horrible move by White! White are giving their best piece away with no reason. Difficult to understand what Hector had been affraid of...
13.♗d3! ♗xc3 (13... ♗d6 14.♕h4 h6 15.♗e3 ♗d7 (15... e5 16.♗g6) 16.♗g6 ♖e7 17.g4 ♘h7 18.♖h3→) 14.bxc3 ♘e4 15.♗xe4 dxe4 16.♘d2±
13... ♖xf6 14.♗d3
14.h6 g6 15.♕xc7 ♗d6 16.♕g7+ ♕xg7 17.hxg7 ♔xg7∓
14... ♗d6!
Back to life! Now all 3 results are possible again
15.♘e5 ♖xf2
Very natural move which appears to be bad.
15... ♘xd4 This would have been stronger interesting option. The game stays very unclear, even if position is looking more favoureble for White 16.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 17.♖xd4 (17.h6 g5! 18.♖xd4 ♖f5 19.f4 gxf4 20.♕g6+ ♔h8 21.♘f3 ♕g8∓) 17... ♖xf2 (17... ♗xe5 18.♕xe5 c5 19.♖d2±) 18.♘d1! ♖f5 19.♕g6+ ♔g8 20.♘g4 ♗f4+ 21.♖xf4 (21.♔b1 ♕f7) 21... ♖xf4 22.h6 ♗d7 23.♘e5∞
16.♖df1 ♗xe5
16... ♖xf1+? 17.♖xf1 ♕e8 18.h6+–
17.dxe5 ♖xf1+ 18.♖xf1 ♕e7

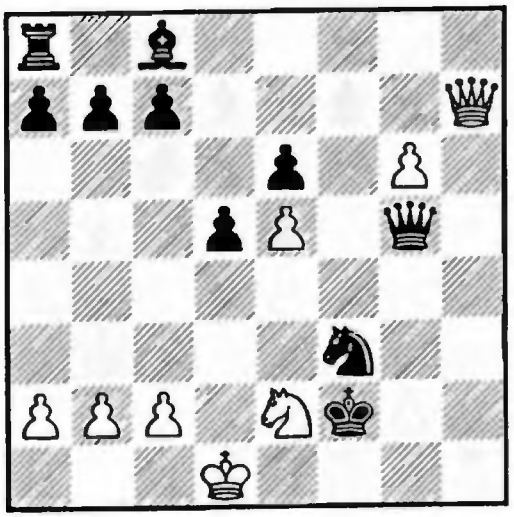


19.♗g6!
A great intuitive sacrifice! Hector is starting a fantastic winning combination in which he doesn`t see the end!
19.h6 ♗d7 20.hxg7 ♕xg7 21.♕h2 ♕g5+ 22.♔b1 h5! 23.♖f3 ♘xe5 24.♖h3 ♗e8 25.a3!∞
19... hxg6
Next few moves are forced
20.hxg6 ♘d4 21.♖f7 ♕d8 22.♕f4?
Decisive mistake
22.♕g4! Is the winning move 22... ♘f5 23.♕h5 ♘h6 24.g4! ♕e8 I am sure that Hector calculated till here and said to himself, what next? But white got an amazing winning idea! 25.♖f2 ♕c6 26.g5 ♘f5 27.♘e2!+– Great slow

winning move, black is hopeless! 27... ♕c4 28.♕h7+ ♔f8 29.♖xf5+ exf5 30.♕h8+ ♔e7 31.♕xg7+ ♔d8 32.♕f8+ ♔d7 33.♔d2!!



a very beautiful position
22... ♘f5-+
Now Black is winning even if for the full point Blacks king has to make a long distance run to the winning f2 field!
23.g4 ♘h4 24.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 25.♕f7+ ♔h6 26.♕h7+ ♔g5 27.♕h5+ ♔f4 28.♘e2+
28.g7 ♗d7-+
28... ♔e3 29.g5 ♘f3 30.♔d1 ♕xg5 31.♕h7 ♔f2



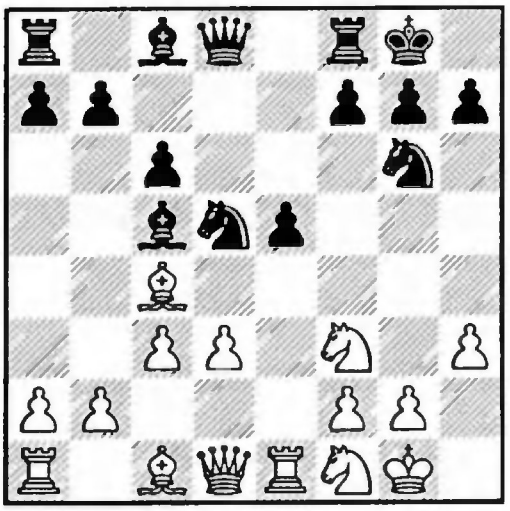
Lucky end for Black after a fighting game **0-1** *[A.Naiditsch]*

(19) **[C53]**

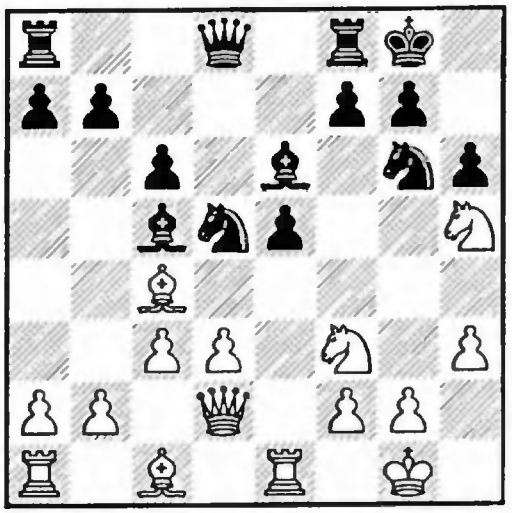
□ **Ivanchuk,V (2776)**
■ **Karjakin,Sergey (2776)**
5th Kings Tournament Medias ROU (5), 15.06.2011

Ivanchuk is not trying to fight for an advantage in the early moves and black are having no opening problems. With 12... h6?! Black are giving White a chance, to make use out of this inaccurate move order but White are missing it. After few more not the best of moves and one more or less invisible mistake, Black are taking over with a nice blow 16... ♗h3 and finishing the game in a nice style

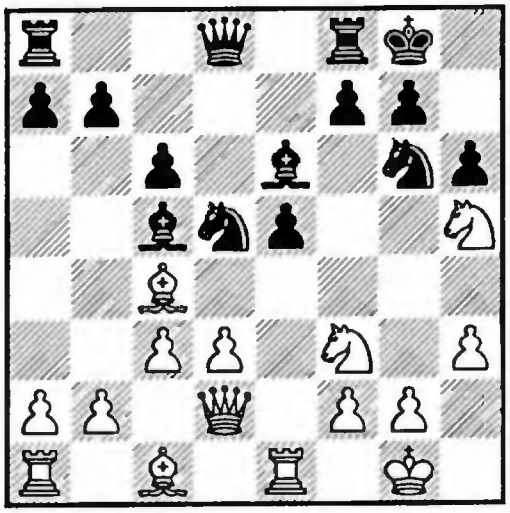
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♗c5 4.c3 ♘f6 5.d3 0-0 6.0-0 d6
6... d5 Is also an opportunity here
7.h3 ♘e7 8.♖e1
Of course early 8.d4 ♗b6 9.dxe5 ♘xe4 10.♘bd2 d5 brings no advantage for White
8... ♘g6 9.♘bd2 c6 10.♘f1 d5 11.exd5 ♘xd5

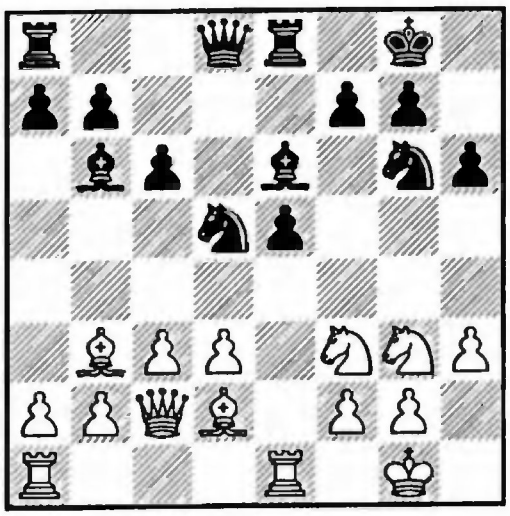


12.♘g3
12.♘xe5? ♘xe5 13.♖xe5 ♗xf2+∓
12... h6?!
This logical move is an inaccuracy. Black had to be very careful here with the right move order 12... ♖e8 13.♘h5 ♗b6 14.♗d2 h6=
13.♗b3?!
Now Ivanchuk has a chance to show why Blacks move 12..h6 has not been the best 13.♘h5! ♗e6 What can Black do? White threat to take on d5 or to play ♕d2, I could not find a decent way to defend from this 2 threats
a) 13... ♗b6 14.♗xd5 cxd5 (14... ♕xd5 15.♗xh6) 15.♘xe5 White is doing clearly better;
b) 13... ♖e8 14.d4!± ♗d6 (14... exd4 15.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 16.♗xd5 cxd5 17.♗xh6!+−) 15.♗xd5 cxd5 16.dxe5 ♘xe5 17.♗f4;
14.♕d2!



Very unusual but super strong idea! Black cannot defend well against the terrible ♘xg7 next (14.♘xe5?! Usually this kind of moves is not working−and also not here 14... ♕h4 15.♕f3 (15.d4 ♘xe5 16.♖xe5 ♗d6 17.♗xd5 ♗xd5=) 15... ♗d6 16.♘xg6 fxg6 17.♖e4 ♕d8! (17... ♕e7 18.♕e2 ♖ae8 19.♘f4!±) 18.♕e2 (18.♕d1 ♕d7 19.♘f4 ♗xf4 20.♗xd5 ♗h2+ 21.♔xh2 ♗xd5±) 18... ♗f5 19.♘g3 ♗xg3 20.fxg3 ♗xe4 21.dxe4 ♖e8 22.♕d3 ♔h8 23.exd5 ♕b6+ 24.♔h2 ♖e1 25.♗e3 ♖xe3 26.♕xg6 cxd5 27.♕xb6 axb6 28.♗xd5 ♖e2∓)





14... ♖e8 15.♘xg7 ♔xg7 16.♕xh6+ ♔g8 17.♘g5 ♘f8 18.♗xd5! (18.♖xe5 ♗d6 19.♘xf7 ♗xf7 20.♖g5+ ♘g6 21.♖xg6+ ♗xg6 22.♕xg6+ ♔h8 23.♕h6+ ♔g8 24.♕g6+=) 18... ♗xd5 (18... cxd5 19.♖xe5 ♕b6 20.d4 ♗d6 21.♗f4!→) 19.c4 ♗e6 20.♖e4!± White got 2 pawns and very strong attack, this is more than enough for a piece

13... ♖e8 14.♗d2

14.d4= Maybe White should have thought already about making a draw objectively, but as we know Ivanchuk, he is always fighting till the end!

14... ♗b6

The center is defended well, Black are doing at least fine

15.♕c2 ♗e6

Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs

15... ♗xh3?! Would be now too early 16.gxh3 ♕f6 17.♕d1 ♘h4 18.♘xh4 ♕xf2+ 19.♔h1 ♕xg3 20.♕g4 ♕xg4 21.hxg4 ♗f2 22.♘f3 ♗xe1 23.♖xe1±

16.♖ad1?

This is a blonder, even if not an easy one.

16... ♗xh3!

Now it is working! A very nice blow by Karjakin. The decisive role is playing a Whites rook on d1, who is taking away the field of the queen.

17.c4

This move is losing almost immediately, but a hard situation appeared for White, in one move the situation has changed dramatically, from about an equal position into an almost lost one 17.gxh3 ♕f6; 17.d4 ♗g4 18.c4 ♖c8! (18...♗xf3 19.gxf3 ♘h4 20.cxd5 ♘xf3+ 21.♔g2 ♘xd4 22.♕c4 ♘xb3 23.♕xb3 cxd5 24.f4!∓) 19.dxe5 (19.cxd5 cxd5 20.♕b1 e4 21.♘xe4 ♗f5!∓) 19... ♗xf3 20.gxf3 ♕h4 21.c5 ♕h3! 22.♕f5 ♕xf5 23.♘xf5 ♗xc5∓

17... ♘df4 18.c5?!

This is the end

(20) **[C67]**

□ **Nisipeanu,LD (2659)**

■ **Ivanchuk,V (2776)**

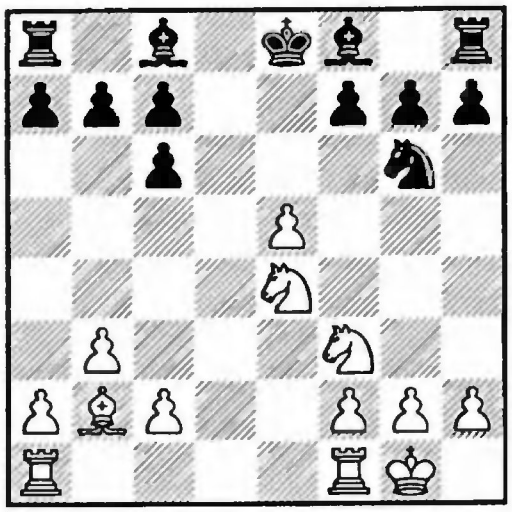
5th Kings Tournament Medias ROU (3), 13.06.2011

Ivanchuk is trying a very unusual idea for Berlin, the early 12... c5?! and getting quickly into troubles after Whites great reaction on it. After a long fight in a bad position Black ais not able to save the game

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♘f6 4.0-0 ♘xe4 5.d4 ♘d6 6.♗xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5 8.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 9.♘c3 ♘e7 10.♘e4

10.h3 The most played move

10... ♘g6 11.b3 ♔e8 12.♗b2



This position comes more often with moves h3–h6 included

12... c5?!

very unusual way of playing, more common one would be

12... a5 13.a4 ♘f4

13.♘fd2!

The main idea of White is clearly to play f4

13... h5

13... ♘f4 14.g3 ♘e2+ 15.♔g2 ♘d4 16.c3 ♘c6 17.c4± Black just made too many moves with their knight to have a normal position

14.♘c4!

White is preparing to put the knight on d5, now we can see why Blacks move 12... c5 been probably an inaccuracy 14.f4 ♘h4 And black are doing fine

14... b6

Black are preparing the ♘e7 move, up to this point it has not been possible, because the pawn on c5 had been hanging

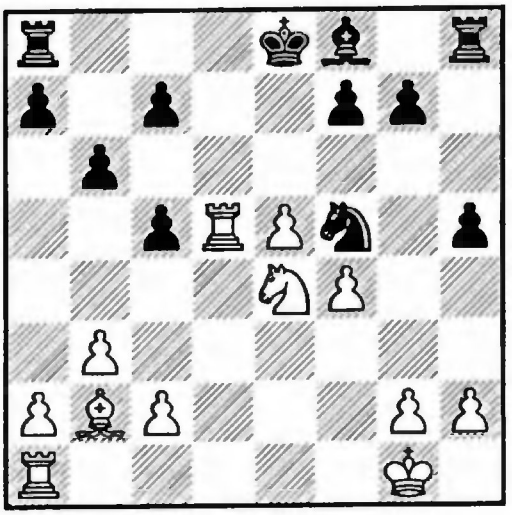
14... ♗e6 15.♘e3 And black can not stop the f4–f5 comming next

15.f4 ♘e7

15... ♗f5 16.♘g3 (16.♖ae1 h4 17.♖f2±) 16... ♗xc2 17.f5 ♘e7 18.f6 ♘c6 19.e6 g6 20.♖f2 ♗d3 21.♖d1 ♗xc4 22.bxc4 ♘d4 23.e7 ♗h6 24.♖d3±

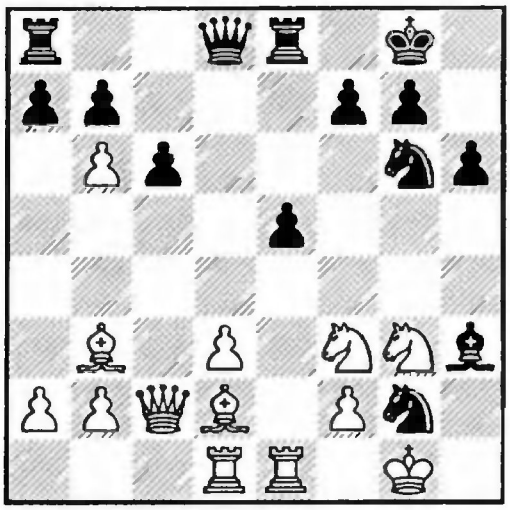
16.♘e3 ♘f5 Black cannot allow White to push f5

17.♘d5 ♗b7 18.♖fd1 ♗xd5 19.♖xd5±



18.♗xf4 ♘xf4 19.d4 (19.c5 ♘xg2 20.♘xe5 ♘xe1 21.♗xf7+ ♔f8 22.♖xe1 ♖xe5 23.♖xe5 ♕f6∓) 19... ♘xg2 20.♖xe5 ♗c7∓ White's position is very bad, but maybe they still have some practical chances to fight a bit in this game

18... ♘xg2 19.cxb6



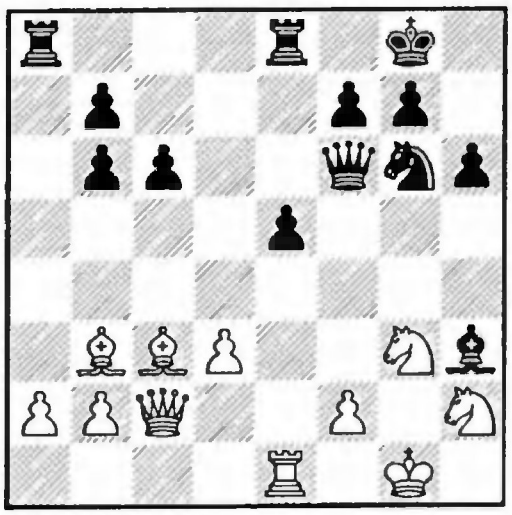
19... ♕f6!-+

Great play by Karjakin! Could it be that Ivanchuk missed this move? Hard to believe, because White position is looking bad anyway, to say the least

20.♘h2 ♘xe1 21.♖xe1 axb6

Black got a rook and 3 pawns for 2 Whites pieces. This is just too much. Plus Whites King is week, position is totally winning. But very nice to see how exact Karjakin in converting his advantage! The rest needs no comments, position of Black is too much winning

22.♗c3



22... ♗e6

Exchaging the last strong White's piece, their bishop on b3!

23.♖e3 ♘f4 24.♖f3 ♕h4 25.♗d2 ♗g4

Overly self confident, but luckily, costs black only a repetition

26.♕c4 ♗e6 27.♕c2 ♗xb3

Back to the right steps

28.♕xb3 ♖e6 29.a3 ♖ae8 30.♕b4 ♖f6 31.♕e4 ♖ee6

More and more of Black pieces are circling around the White king's position... .

32.♘e2 ♘xe2+ 33.♕xe2 ♖xf3 34.♕xf3 ♖g6+ 35.♔h1 ♖f6 36.♕g3 ♕xg3 37.fxg3 ♖d6

0-1 *[A.Naiditsch]*

White reached the perfect endgame, they changed the blacks bishop for a knight, and got now the typical 4–3 pawn structural advantage on the king side, while on the queen side white will be perfectly able to stop 4 Blacks pawns with own 3 pawns.

19... a5?!

This move is getting Black into deep trouble, Ivanchuk had to play here

19... ♘e3 20.♖d2 ♖d8 21.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 22.c4 ♗e7 23.♖e1 ♘f5 24.♖d1+ ♔c8 25.♔f2±

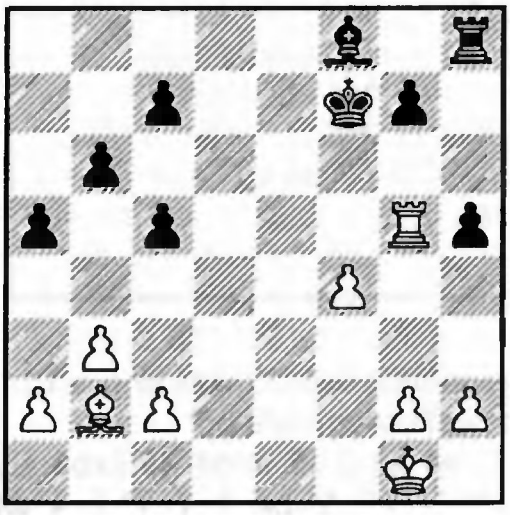
20.♖e1 ♖d8

20... c6 21.♘f6+ ♔e7 22.♖d7+ ♔e6 23.♖b7±

21.♘f6+ ♔e7 22.e6!

A very nice tactic by White

22... ♖xd5 23.♘xd5+ ♔d6 24.exf7 ♔xd5 25.♖e5+ ♔d6 26.♖xf5 ♔e6 27.♖g5 ♔xf7



After few exchanges we reached an endgame, in which it is clear, White has a huge advantage

28.♗e5

Nisipeanu is deciding to talk the black pawn–but letting Black pieces out

28.c4 This was also a possibility, trying not to give Black an easy way to come out with their pieces 28... ♖h7 29.♔f2 ♗d6 30.♔f3± The number of pawns is equal, but White pieces are completely dominating and we still have the big pawn domination on the kind side. White's next moves could be, g3, h1, ♔e4, g4... It would be a big work for Black to defend such a horrible endgame

28... c4!

Only way to fight!

29.♗xc7 ♗c5+ 30.♔f1 ♖c8 31.♗e5 g6 32.f5

White needs to free their rook

32... gxf5 33.♖xh5 ♖d8

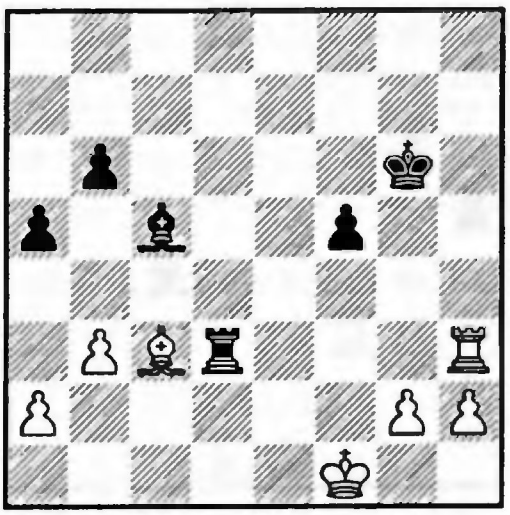
33... ♔e6 34.♖h8! ♖xh8 35.♗xh8 cxb3 36.cxb3 ♔d5 37.♔e2 ♔e4 38.a4 With a winning bishop endgame for White

34.♗c3

of course not letting the black rook to the 2 rank

34.♖xf5+? ♔e6 35.g4 ♖d2

34... cxb3 35.cxb3 ♔g6 36.♖h8 ♖d3 37.♖h3



37... ♗e3?

This move can be only explained with a big time troubles, and on both sides... of course White position is better but after

37... ♖d1+ 38.♔e2 ♖c1 39.♖g3+ ♔f7 40.♔d3! ♖d1+ 41.♔c4 ♖c1± Black can still fight; 37... ♖xh3 38.gxh3 f4 39.♔e2 ♔f5 40.♔f3+− With a totally winning endgame for White

38.♗e1?

38.♗e5+− and next ♗f4 winning an exchange

38... f4 39.♔e2 ♖d8 40.g3 ♖c8

Back to life and searching for further chances to make a draw!

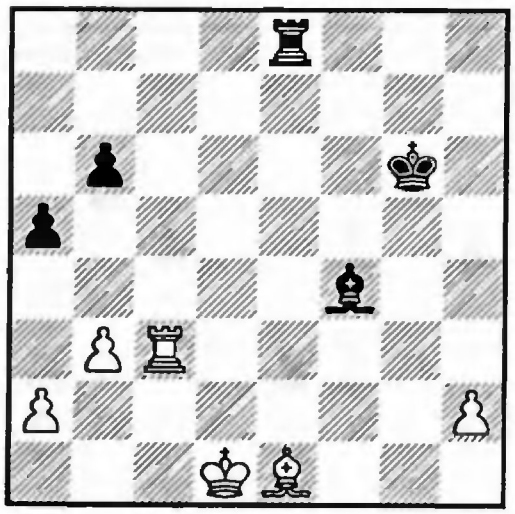
41.gxf4 ♗xf4 42.♖c3

The basic of idea for Black is of course to take somehow the h pawn and not to lose both pawns on the queen's side. Not that easy to reach. For example now the move

42... ♖e8+

42... ♖xc3? 43.♗xc3 ♗xh2 44.♔d3 ♔f5 45.♔c4 ♔e6 46.♔b5 ♗g1 47.♔c6 and White is winning

43.♔d1



43... ♖d8+?!

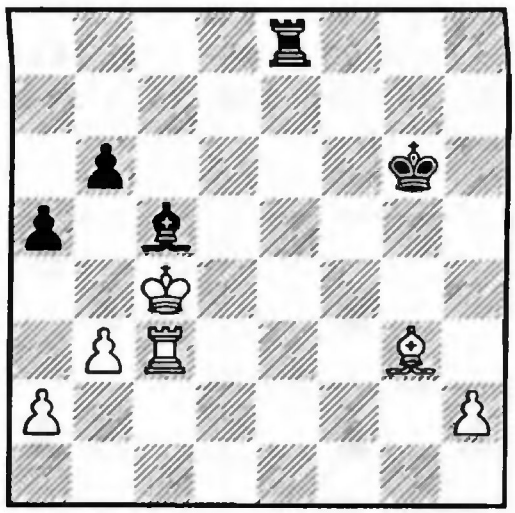
Why to let the Whites kind come clother to the Black pawns?!

I think best chance for a draw would give 43... ♗xh2 44.♖c6+ ♔f5 45.♖xb6 a4! and it is not easy at all to say if position is actually winning or not... 46.b4 ♖e3!

44.♔c2 ♖e8 45.♗g3 ♗e3?!

Last chance to fight for a draw has been 45... ♗xg3 46.♖xg3+ ♔f5 47.♔d3 Based on the hunch feeling, I would say that position is winning, but White would have for sure many technical problems ahead of them

46.♔d3 ♗c5 47.♔c4



The game is over. Whites king reached his destination, field b5!

47... a4 48.♔b5 axb3 49.axb3 ♖e2 50.♗c7 ♖e6 51.b4 ♗e7 52.♖c4 ♔f5 53.♗xb6 ♗d6 54.♗c7

1-0 *[A.Naiditsch]*

(21) **[C77]**

□ **David,Alb (2593)**

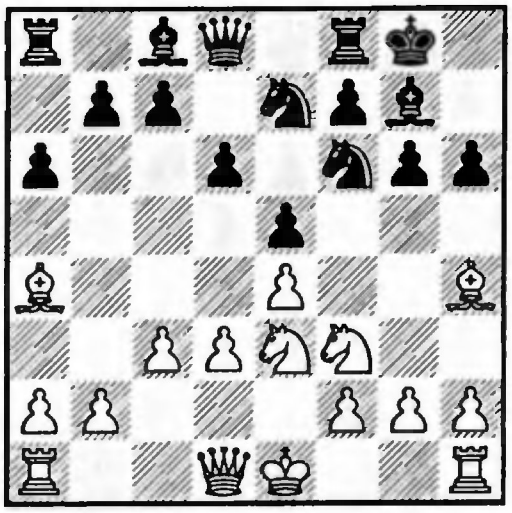
■ **Sokolov,Ivan (2645)**

TCh-FRA Top 12 2011 Mulhouse FRA (10), 04.06.2011

In the opening white decides for a move order which avoids Open Spanish. As a result black has possibility to quickly develop his bishop to g7. In general black plays a Breyer set-up having a good version (since his bishop is already developed to g7). White strategic mistake was 18.a5?! after which black got stable situation on the queenside, (white a5 pawn also being potential weakness) and had easy game. 18.♕f3 is critical for opening evaluation

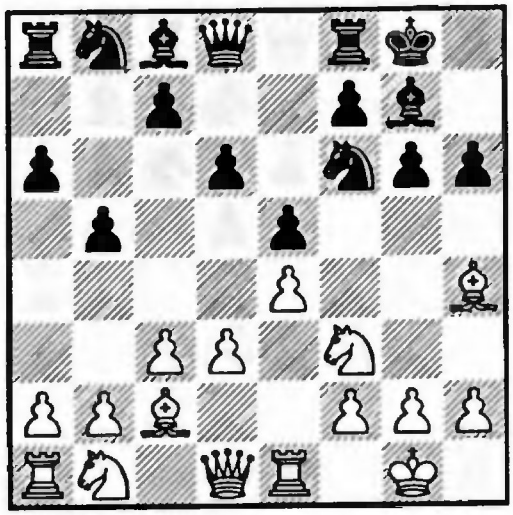
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.d3 d6 6.c3 g6 7.0-0

In a number of games played 7.♗g5 was the move. Developing bishop is on on one hand for white logical, however on the other black players are questioning white bishop on h4-d8 diagonal here 7... ♗g7 8.♘bd2 h6 9.♗h4 0-0 10.♘f1 position is strategically complicated and black can easily take over the initiative 10... ♘e7 (10... b5 11.♗b3 ♘a5 12.♗c2 c5 13.♘e3 ♗e6 14.0-0 ♕d7 15.a3 ♘g4 16.♘xg4 ♗xg4 17.h3 ♗e6 18.♖e1 f5 19.d4 f4 20.dxe5 g5 21.exd6 gxh4 22.e5 ♘c6 23.b4 c4 24.a4 bxa4 25.♗xa4 ♕b7 26.♗xc6 ♕xc6 27.♘d4 ♕d7 28.♕f3 ♔h8 29.♖a5 ♕f7 30.♖c5± 1-0 Tiviakov, S (2648) - Eljanov, P (2701)/ Montreal 2007/CBM 119 (39)) 11.♘e3 c6 (also interesting, though played only in a rapid game is



11...g5!? 12.♗g3 ♘g6 13.h4 g4 14.♘h2 h5 15.f3 ♗h6 16.♘f5 ♗xf5 17.exf5 ♘f4 18.0-0 gxf3 19.♕xf3 ♔h7 20.♔h1 ♖g8 21.♗b3 d5 22.♗f2 ♖xg2 23.♖g1 ♖xg1+ 24.♖xg1 ♕d7 25.c4 e4 26.dxe4 dxe4 27.♕c3 ♕xf5 28.♖f1 ♖g8 29.c5 ♕g6 30.♖g1 ♕xg1+ 31.♗xg1 ♘e2 32.♕e1 ♖xg1+ 33.♕xg1 ♘xg1 34.♔xg1 ♗e3+∓ 0-1 Cabrera, A (2514) - Ponomariov, R (2706)/Villarrobledo 2007/ EXT 2008 (50)) 12.0-0 ♘h5 13.♗b3 ♔h8 14.d4 ♕c7 15.♕d2 b5 16.dxe5 dxe5 17.♖ad1 ♖a7 18.♕d6 ♘f4 19.♕c5 a5 20.a3 a4 21.♗c2 f6 22.♔h1 ♘e6 23.♕d6 h5 24.♕xc7 ♖xc7 25.♗g3 ♖d8 26.♖xd8+ ♘xd8 27.♖d1 ♘b7 28.♘e1 ♗h6 29.♘d3 ♗xe3 30.fxe3 ♔h7 31.♖f1 ♘g8 32.b3 axb3 33.♗xb3 ♖d7 34.♘b4 ♘c5∓ 1/2-1/2 Almasi,Z (2691)-Sokolov, I (2673)/ Sibenik 2007/EXT 2008 (59)

7... ♗g7 8.♖e1 0-0 9.♗g5 h6 10.♗h4 b5 11.♗c2 ♘b8



black is playing Breyer (with some extra tempos, since bishop is already on g7).

12.♘bd2 ♘bd7 13.♘f1 c5 14.♘e3 ♕c7 15.♘d2 ♗b7 16.♗b3 ♘b6 17.a4

white could have considered 17.c4 with approx equal game

17... ♗c6!

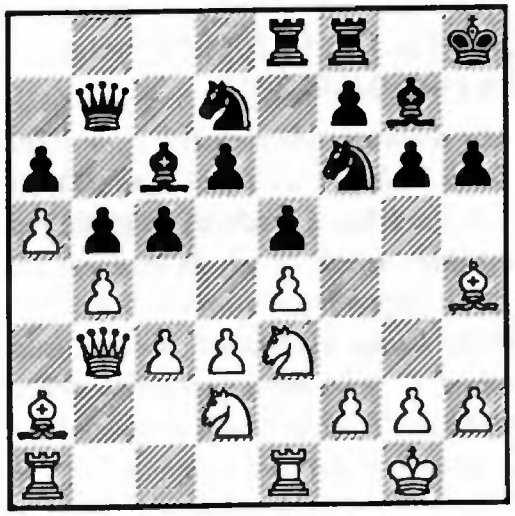
asking white to take a decision with his queenside

18.a5?!

in general, black should now be glad. Queenside pawn structure has been (relatively) fixed (white a5 pawn can be a weakness in some lines), black situation is stable and he is going to prepare a central pawn break

however, white does not get advantage here 18.axb5 axb5 19.♕f3 ♘bd7; 18.♗xf6 ♗xf6 19.a5 ♘c8 20.♘d5 ♗xd5 21.♗xd5 ♖b8 with ♘e7, ♗g7, ♔h8, f5 to follow; probably critical line (for the opening evaluation) is 18.♕f3 black seem to have enough counterplay after 18... bxa4 19.♗xf6 axb3 20.♘xb3 ♘a4 with ♖ab8 to follow

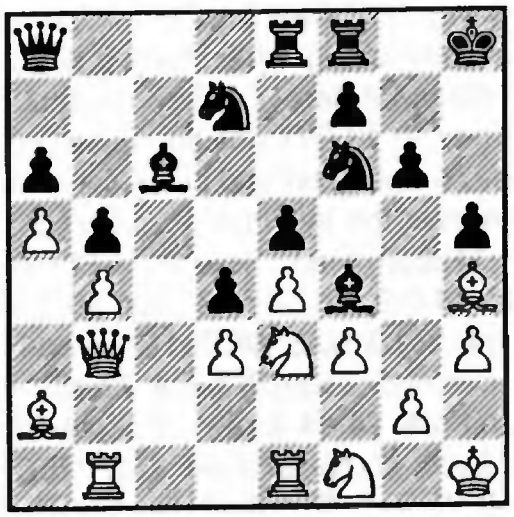
18... ♘bd7 19.♗a2 ♖ae8 20.b4 ♕b7 21.♕b3 ♔h8



22.♕d1 h5 23.♖b1 ♕a7 24.h3 ♗h6 25.♔h1 ♗f4 26.♘df1 ♕a8 27.f3

27.bxc5 dxc5 28.♘d2 ♕d8∓ (targeting "a5" pawn)

27... cxb4 28.cxb4 d5 29.♕b3 d4



30.♘d5?

A crucial mistake. this makes the black's task easy 30.♘d1! keeping the position closed was called for

30... ♗xd5 31.exd5 ♖c8
black "c" file dominance decides the game
32.g3 ♖c3 33.♕d1 ♗h6 34.♗xf6+ ♘xf6 35.♖xe5 ♕c8
Black has a complete domination and white position collapses
36.g4
36.♔g2 h4 37.g4 ♗f4 38.♖e2 ♖e8∓
36... ♗f4 37.♕e1
37.♖e1 ♔g7
37... hxg4 38.d6
Or 38.hxg4 ♖xd3
0-1 *[I. Sokolov]*

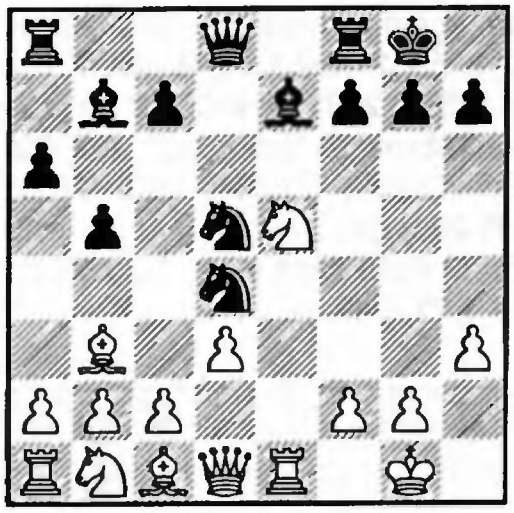
(22) [C88]

□ Iordachescu,V (2640)
■ Adams,Mi (2726)

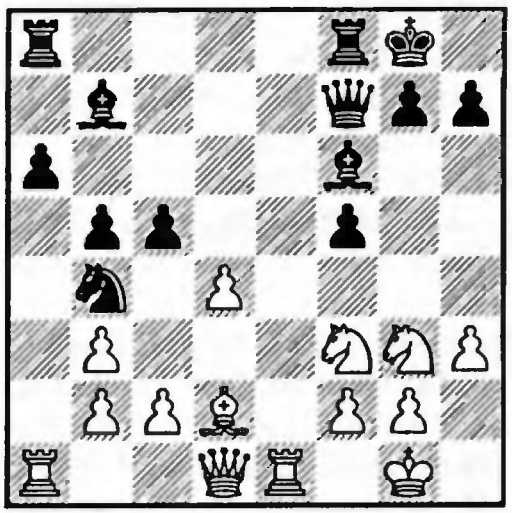
TCh-FRA Top 12 2011 Mulhouse FRA (8), 02.06.2011

Iordachescu decided to play a rare continuation 11.♘d2. Maybe he expected 14... ♖e8 but Adams improved the line and played simple 14... ♕c7. He is one of the biggest specialist in this kind of positions, with 2 bishops and active play for a pawn down he managed easily to make a draw

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 0-0 8.h3 ♗b7 9.d3 d5 10.exd5 ♘xd5 11.♘xe5 ♘d4



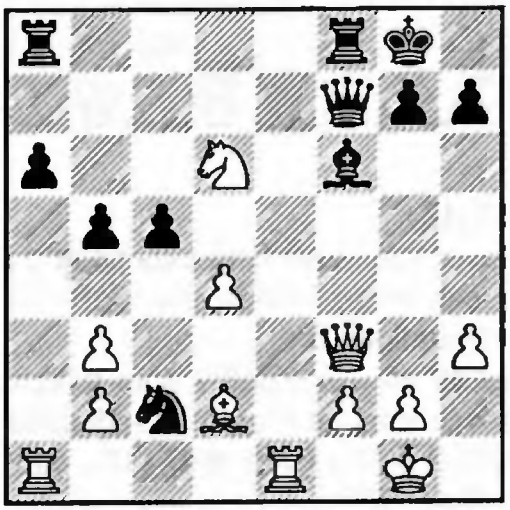
12.♘d2
Idea of this move is to play c3 and after exchange bishop play ♘b3,other continuations are:
12.♗d2 c5 (12... ♖e8!? also possbile) 13.♘c3 ♘b4 14.♘e4 ♘xb3 15.axb3 f5 16.♘g3 ♕d5 17.♘f3 ♕d7 (17... ♗f6N
a) 18.d4 ♕f7!



(18... ♖ad8 19.♘h5! ♗xd4 20.♘f4 ♕d6 21.c3±)
a1) 19.♗xb4 cxb4 maybe comparing to the game Karjakin-Onischuk,black

has some advantage 20.♘xf5 (20. c3 bxc3 21.bxc3 ♖ac8 22.♖c1 a5) 20... ♕d7 21.♕d3 ♗xf3 22.♕xf3 ♗g5 23.h4 ♗xh4 24.♖e5 g6 25.♕e4 ♗xf2+ 26.♔xf2 ♖xf5+ 27.♖xf5 ♕xf5+ 28.♕xf5 gxf5 29.♔e3 ♔f7=

a2) 19.♘xf5 ♕d7 (19... ♗xf3 20.♕xf3 ♘xc2 21.♘d6

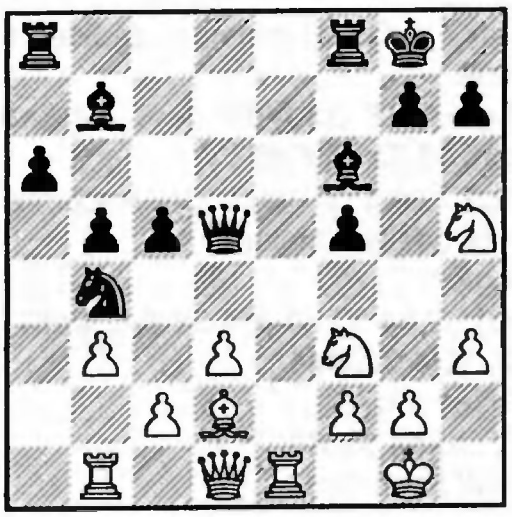


21... ♘xd4 (21... ♕g6 22.dxc5 ♘xa1 23.♕d5+ ♔h8 24.♖xa1 ♗xb2 25.♖d1↑) 22.♕xa8 ♖xa8 23.♘xf7 ♔xf7 24.♖ad1 ♘xb3∞) 20.dxc5 ♗xf3 21.♕xf3 ♕xd2 22.c3 g6 23.♘d6 (23.♖ad1 ♕g5∓) 23... ♗e5 24.♕e4 ♕xf2+ 25.♔h1 ♕g3 26.♕xe5 ♖f1+ 27.♖xf1 ♕xe5 28.cxb4 ♖f8∞;

a3) 19.dxc5?! ♗xf3 20.gxf3 ♖ad8↑;

b) 18.♖b1 ♕f7 19.♗xb4 (19.♗c3 ♗xf3 Xc2; 19.♘xf5 ♗xf3 20.♕xf3 ♘xc2 21.♖ec1 ♕xb3 22.♗c3 ♘d4 23.♗xd4 ♗xd4 24.♘xd4 cxd4 25.♕e4 ♖ae8 26.♕xd4 ♖d8=) 19... cxb4 20.d4 ♗xf3 (20... ♖ac8) 21.♕xf3 ♗xd4 22.♘e2 ♗e5 23.♘c1 ♗d6 24.♘d3;

c) 18.♘h5 ♗xb2 19.♖b1 ♗f6



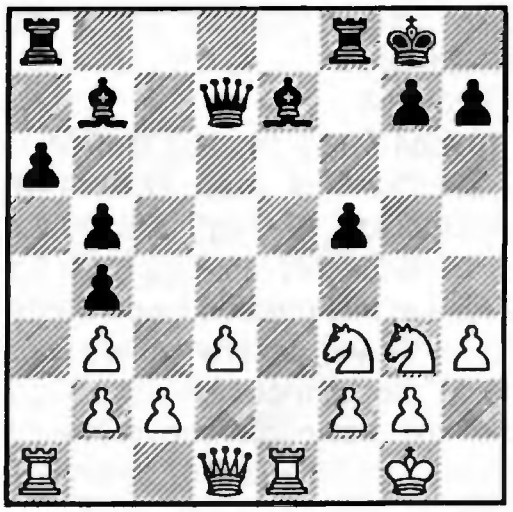
20.d4 (20.♘xf6+ ♖xf6 21.♖e5 (21.♖e7 ♖g6 22.♔h1 ♗c6∞; 21.d4 ♖g6 22.♔h1 ♘xc2 23.♖e5 ♕d8 24.♕xc2 ♗xf3 25.gxf3 ♕h4 26.♕xf5 ♕xf2 27.♗g5 ♖f8 28.♕g4 h6 29.♗e3 ♕xf3+ 30.♕xf3 ♖xf3 31.♔h2 cxd4 32.♗xd4 ♖gg3=) 21... ♕d6 22.d4 (22.♗f4 ♘d5 23.♕d2 ♘xf4 24.♕xf4 ♗xf3 25.♕xf3 ♕xe5 26.♕xa8+ ♔f7=) 22... cxd4 23.♗xb4 ♕xb4 24.♕xd4 ♕xd4 25.♘xd4 ♗e4!? 26.f3 ♖d8 27.fxe4 ♖xd4 28.exf5 ♖c6=) 20... ♕f7 21.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 22.c3 ♘d3 23.♖e3 ♘f4 (23... ♗e4 24.♖xd3 f4 25.♘e5 ♗xd3 26.♘xd3 cxd4 27.♖c1±) 24.♖e5 ♘d3 25.♗g5 ♗xf3 26.♕xd3 ♕xg5 27.♕xf3 cxd4 28.cxd4 ♖ad8 29.d5±;

d) 18.♗c3 ♕f7⩱;

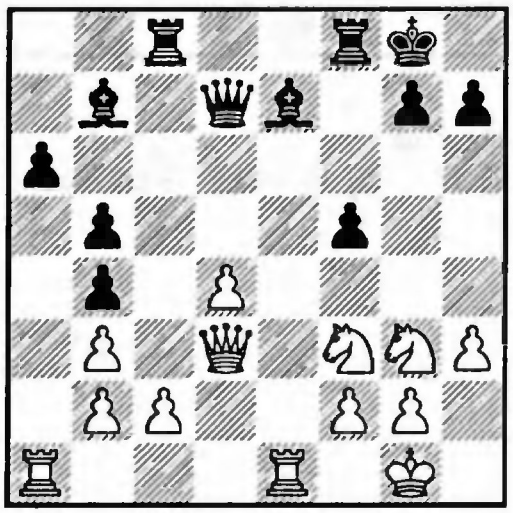
e) 18.♗xb4 cxb4 19.d4 ♖ad8 looks that it is a better version for black;

f) 18.♖b1 ♕f7)

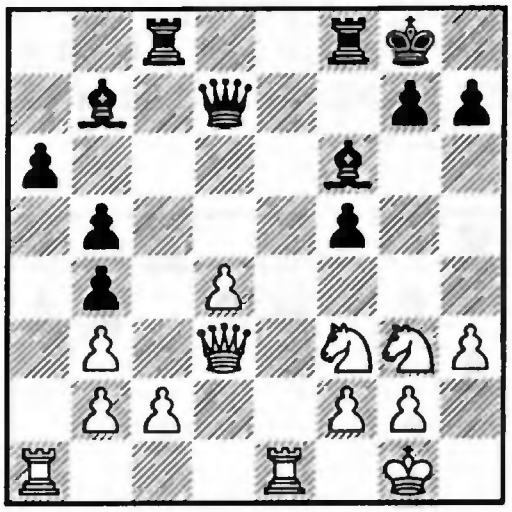
18.♗xb4 cxb4



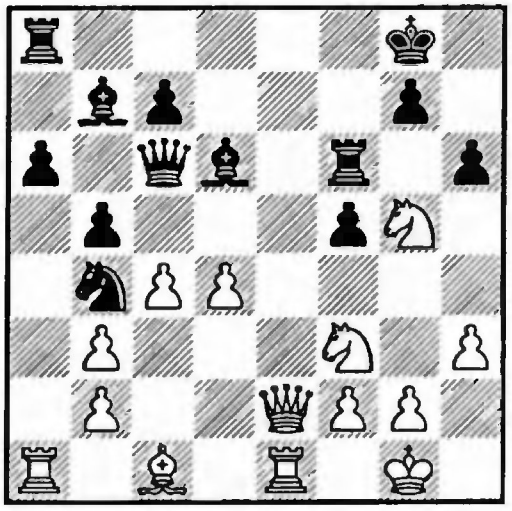
a) 19.d4 ♖ac8 20.♕d3 (20.♖c1!? ♗xf3 21.♕xf3 ♗g5 22.♖a1 ♖xc2 23.♖xa6 ♕xd4 24.♖a8↑)
a1) 20... ♗d6? 21.♘e5± ♕c7 22.♘xf5 ♗xe5 23.♖xe5 ♕xc2 24.♘e7+ ♔h8 25.♕g3 ♖cd8 26.♖ae1 ♕d2 27.♖1e3 ♕xb2 28.♕h4 ♖d6 29.♖f5 ♖a8 30.♕f4 ♖dd8 31.♖f7 1-0 Karjakin,S (2747)–Onischuk,A (2688)/Khanty-Mansiysk RUS 2010;



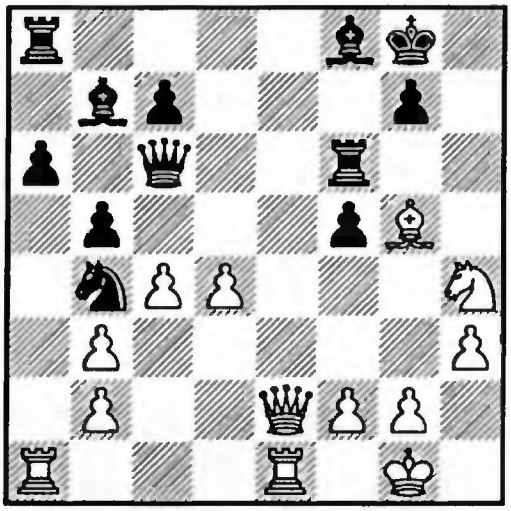
a2) 20... g6 21.c4 ♗f6 (⌓21... bxc3 22.bxc3 ♗f6 transpose) 22.♘e5! ♗xe5 23.♖xe5 bxc4 24.bxc4 ♕c6 25.d5 ♕xc4 26.♕d2 ♖ce8 (26... ♕b3 27.♘h5! f4 28.♕d4 ♕c4 29.♕b6±; 26... ♖fe8 27.♖xf5! ♕c2 28.♕xb4 gxf5 29.♕xb7 ♖b8 30.♕xa6 ♖xb2 31.♕a7 ♖e7 32.♕a8+ ♔f7 33.♖f1∞; 26... ♖cd8 27.♘xf5!+–) 27.♖ae1 ♖xe5 28.♖xe5 ♕c5 29.♘h5! gxh5 (29... ♖c8 30.♖e1!+–) 30.♕g5+ ♔f7 31.♕xh5+ ♔g7 32.♕g5+ ♔f7 33.♖e1→ (33.♖e6 a5 34.♕xf5+ (34.♔h2 ♗xd5 35.♕xf5+ ♔g8 36.♕g5+ ♔h8 37.♕e5+ ♔g8 38.♖d6 ♕xf2=) 34... ♔g8 35.♕g5+ ♔h8 36.♖e7 ♕xf2+ 37.♔h2 ♖f7=) 33... ♕c7 34.♕h6 ♔g8 35.d6 ♕f7 36.♖e7 ♕g6 37.♕xg6+ hxg6 38.♖xb7 ♖d8 39.♖xb4 ♖xd6 40.♖b7±;
a3) 20... ♗xf3 21.♕xf3 ♖xc2 22.♖xa6±;
a4) 20... ♗f6



a41) 21.c3 g6 22.♘f1 only one logical idea is to improve the knight to g3 (22.♖ac1) 22... bxc3 23.bxc3 ♗xf3!? 24.gxf3 (24.♕xf3 ♕c6! 25.♖ac1 ♕xf3 26.gxf3 b4=) 24... b4 25.cxb4 (25.c4 ♗xd4 26.♖ad1 ♖fd8 27.♘e3 ♕c7 28.♔g2 ♕f4 29.♘d5 ♖xd5 30.cxd5

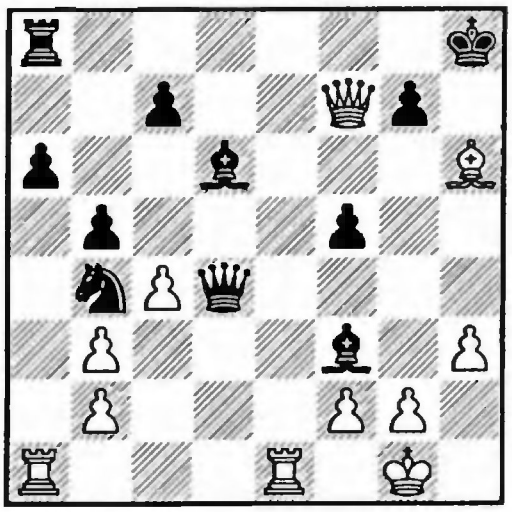


(19... bxc4 20.bxc4 ♕c6 21.c5± c4 square is now available) 20.♘h4! (20.d5 ♘xd5 21.cxd5 ♕xd5 22.♘h4 (22.♖d1 ♕c6 23.♘e6 ♕e4 24.♕xe4 fxe4 25.♘fd4 ♗d5 26.♗e3 ♗xe6 27.♘xb5 ♗xb3=) 22... f4! 23.♘gf3 (23.♘e4 ♖e6 24.f3 ♕h5∓) 23... g5 24.♗d2 gxh4 25.b4 ♔h7∓) 20... hxg5 (20... bxc4 21.bxc4 hxg5 22.♗xg5 ♖f7 23.d5 ♕b6 24.♕h5→) 21.♗xg5 ♗f8 (21... ♖f7



22.d5 ♘xd5 23.cxd5 ♕xd5 24.♖ad1 (24.♕h5 g6! 25.♕h6 ♖h7 26.♕xg6+ ♖g7∞) 24... ♕c6 25.♕h5 ♖e8 26.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 27.♘g6 ♖d7 28.♔h1↑) 22.d5 ♕b6 (22... ♕d6 23.c5!) 23.♗xf6 ♕xf6 24.♕e6+ (24.♕h5 ♘d3 25.♖e6 (25.♘g6 ♕xb2=) 25... ♕xb2 26.♖f1 ♘f4 27.♕xf5 ♘xe6 28.♕xe6+ ♔h8 29.♘g6+ ♔h7 30.♕f5 ♔g8 31.♕e6+=) 24... ♕xe6 25.♖xe6∞

a12) 17... h6 18.c4! ♕xd3 19.♕e6+ ♔h8 20.♘f7+ ♖xf7 21.♕xf7 ♗xf3 (21... ♖f8 22.♕g6 ♗xf3 23.♗xh6 ♕d4 24.gxf3 ♘d3 25.♖e3±) 22.♗xh6 ♕d4



(22... gxh6 23.♕f6+ ♔h7 24.♖e6 ♗f8 25.gxf3 ♕d2 26.♖e7+! ♗xe7 27.♕xe7+ ♔g6 28.♔h1+−) 23.c5 (23.♗e3 ♕h4) 23... ♗g3 24.♗e3 ♕d5 25.♕xd5 (25.♕g6 ♗e5 26.gxf3 ♕xf3 27.♗h6 ♘d3 28.♖xe5 ♕xf2+ 29.♔h1 ♕f3+=) 25... ♗xd5 26.fxg3 ♘c2 27.♗f4 ♘xa1 28.♖xa1 c6 29.♖e1 ♗xb3 30.♖e7 a5 31.♗e5 ♖g8=;

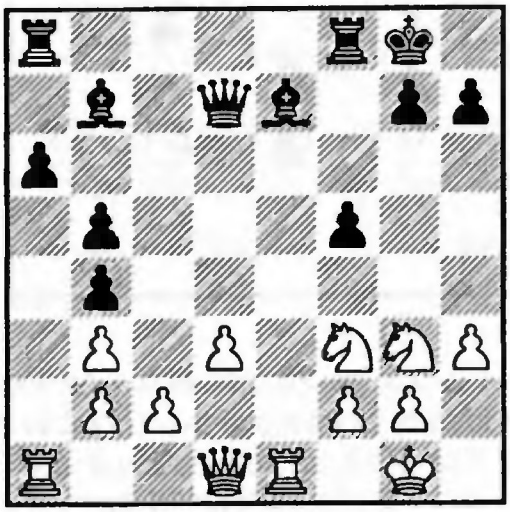
a12) 17... ♗c6? 18.c4 ♕xd3 19.♕e6+ ♔h8 20.♗d2±;

♗xf2 31.♔xf2 ♕h2+ 32.♔f1 ♕h1+=) 25... ♕xd4 (25... ♗xd4 26.♖ad1 ♖fd8 27.♕xa6±) 26.♕xd4 ♗xd4 27.♖xa6 ♖c2 28.♘e3 ♖d2 (28... ♖b2!?) 29.f4 (29.♖c1 f4 30.♘g4 h5 31.♖xg6+ ♔f7 32.♖a6 hxg4 33.♖c7+ ♔g8 34.♖g6+=) 29... ♖c8⇄;

a42) 21.♘e5 ♕d5 22.f3 ♖xc2 (22... g6∞) 23.♕xc2 ♕xd4+ 24.♕f2!±;

a43) 21.♘xf5 ♗xf3 22.♕xf3 (22.gxf3 ♗d8 23.♖e5 ♖c6↑) 22... ♗g5 23.♖e5 g6 24.h4 ♗xh4 25.♕f4 ♗f6 26.♘h6+ ♔h8 27.♖xa6 ♗xe5 28.♕xe5+ ♕g7 29.♖a7 ♕xe5 30.dxe5 ♖xc2 31.♘f7+ ♔g8 32.♘h6+=;

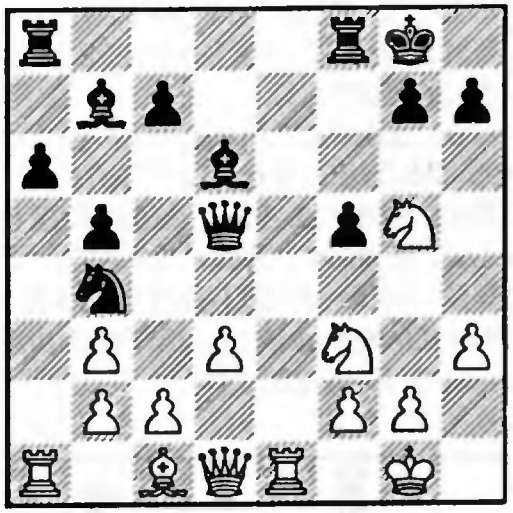
b) 19.♘e5 ♕d4 (19... ♕d5 20.♕f3 ♕xf3 21.gxf3 ♖ac8∞) 20.♘c6 ♗xc6 21.♖xe7 ♕d5 22.♕f1 f4 23.♘e4 ♕d8 24.♖e6 ♕c8 25.♖d6 f3 (25... ♗xe4 26.dxe4 ♕xc2 27.♖dxa6 ♖xa6 28.♖xa6 ♕xe4 29.♕xb5±) 26.gxf3 ♗b7 Xc2, Xf3 27.♕e2 ♕xh3 28.♘g5 ♗xf3 29.♕xf3 ♕xf3 30.♘xf3 ♖xf3 31.♖dxa6 ♖af8 32.♖f1 ♖c8=;



c) 19.c4!? bxc3 20.bxc3 ♖ac8 21.♖c1 Very similar structure played Jakovenko against Aronian (21.c4 ♗b4) 21... ♗d6⩱;

12.♘c3 ♘b4

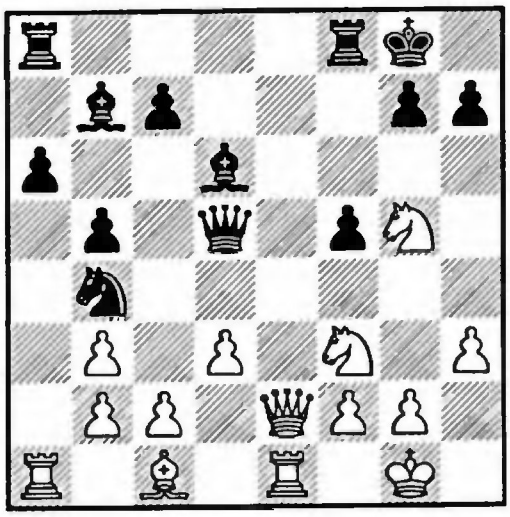
a) 13.♘e4 ♘xb3 14.axb3 ♕d5 15.♘f3 (15.♗f4 f5 16.c4 bxc4 17.bxc4 ♕d4 18.♘f3 ♕xd3 19.♘eg5 ♗f6 20.♘e6) 15... f5 16.♘eg5N (16.♘g3 ♕d7! Typical idea in this position,black wants to take on f3 and destroy white's structure. White cannot take ♕f3 because of the pawn c2 who is hanging. 17.♘e5 ♕d5 18.♘f3 ♕d7 Jakovenko-Svidler,Mocsow,2009) 16... ♗d6

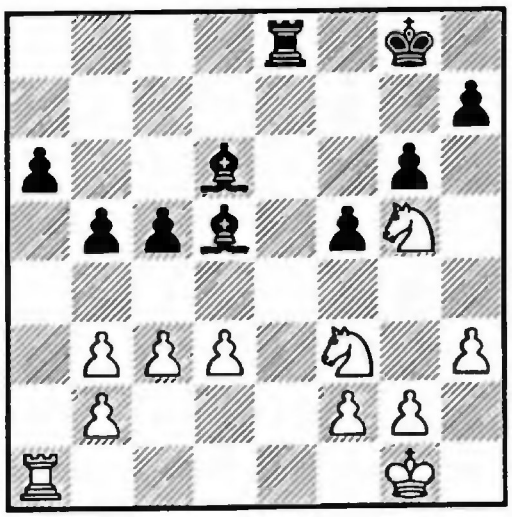


a1)17.♕e2

a11) 17... ♖f6 18.d4 h6 19.c4 ♕c6

Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs

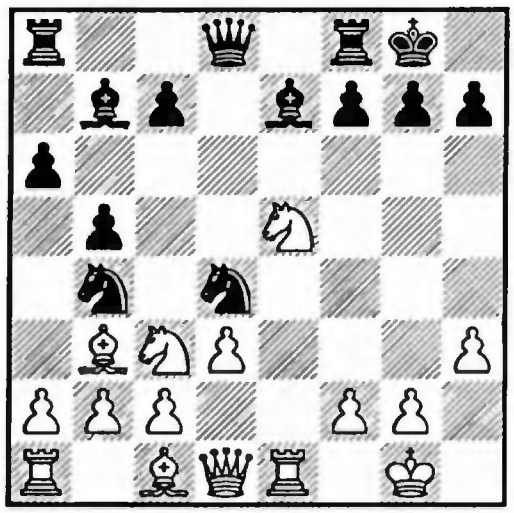




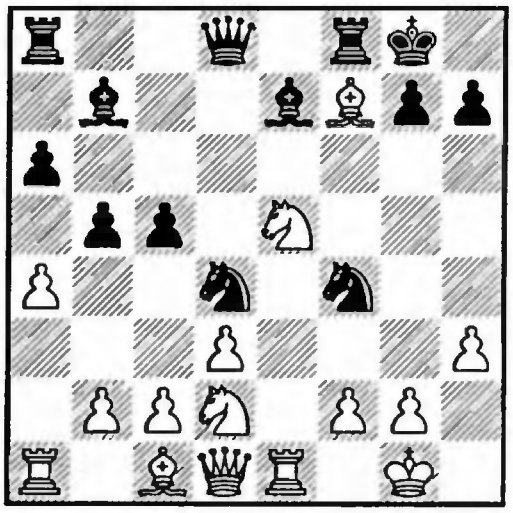
a13) 17... ♕c6!? 18.♕e6+ (18.c3 ♖ae8 19.♕d1 ♕d5 20.cxb4 h6) 18... ♔h8 19.♗d2 ♘xc2 20.♖ac1 ♖f6 21.♘f7+ ♔g8 22.♘h6+ ♔h8 23.♘f7+=;

a2) 17.♘e6 ♖fe8 18.♘f4 ♕f7 Xc2 19.♗d2 ♗xf3 20.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 21.gxf3 ♘c6 22.♖xa6 ♘d4→;

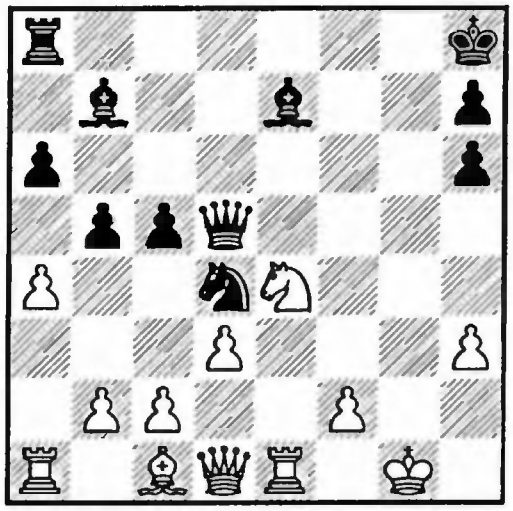
a3) 17.♗d2 ♖fe8 White has problems with knight on g5. 18.♗xb4 ♗xb4 19.c3 ♗d6 (19... h6 20.cxb4 hxg5 21.♖c1 g4 22.♘h4 gxh3 23.♕h5→) 20.♘h4 (20. c4 ♕c6 21.d4 bxc4 22.♕c2 h6 23.♘e6 cxb3 24.♕xf5 ♖e7∞) 20... g6 (20... h6 21.c4 ♖xe1+ 22.♕xe1 ♕e5 23.♕xe5 ♗xe5 24.♘e6 ♖e8 25.♘c5 ♗xb2 26.♖b1 ♗f6 27.♘xf5 ♗c8 28.♘g3 (28.♘e3 ♗d4) 28... ♗d4 29.♘ce4±) 21.♕f3 c5 White knights don't play and black should have a good compensation 22.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 23.♕xd5+ ♗xd5 24.♘hf3 24... ♖e2! (24... ♗b7 25.♖e1 ♖xe1+ 26.♘xe1 h6 27.♘gf3 ♗f4 28.d4 cxd4 (28... ♗xf3 29.♘xf3 cxd4 30.c4 d3 31.♔f1 ♔f7 32.♔e1 ♔e6 33.♔d1 ♗e5 34.cxb5 axb5 35.♔d2 ♗xb2 36.♔xd3 ♔d5 (36... ♗a3 37.♘d4+ ♔e5 38.♘xb5 ♗c5 39.♔e2±) 37.♘h4±) 29.♘xd4 ♗e4 30.♔f1 ♗c1 31.f3 ♗b1 32.♔e2 ♗xb2 33.♔d2 b4 34.♘e2±) 25.♖xa6 ♗f4 26.c4 ♖xb2 27.g3 bxc4 28.dxc4 (28.gxf4 c3 29.♖d6 ♗xb3 30.♖d8+ ♔g7 31.♖d7+ ♔h8 32.♖xh7+ ♔g8 33.♖c7 c2 34.♖xc5 ♖b1+ 35.♔g2 c1♕ 36.♖xc1 ♖xc1 37.♘e5=) 28... ♗xf3 29.♘xf3 ♖xb3 30.♔g2 ♗c1 (30... ♗h6!?) 31.♖c6 ♖b2 32.♔f1 ♖b1 33.♔e2 ♖b2+ 34.♔e1 ♖b3 35.♘e5 f4∞;



a) 13.♗f4!?;
b) 13.♗e3?! ♘xb3 14.axb3 ♗d6 15.♗d2 ♖e8 (15... f6) 16.d4 ♕h4 17.♘e2 ♕e4 18.♘f4 ♕xc2 19.♗xb4 ♕xd1 20.♖exd1 ♗xb4 21.♘fd3 ♗d6 22.♖ac1 ♗d5 23.♘c5 a5∓ 0-1 Kasimdzhanov,R (2683)–Bacrot,E (2695) /Mainz GER 2007/ The Week in Chess 667 (72);
12... c5 13.c3
a) 13.a4?! ♘f4 14.♗xf7+



(14.♘ef3 ♗xf3 (...14... ♕d7!? 15.♘xd4 ♗xg2) 15.♘xf3 ♘xb3 16.cxb3 ♘e6 17.♗e3 ♗f6 18.♕c2 ♕d5 19.♖ec1 h6 20.♘d2 ♗e7 21.axb5 axb5 22.♖xa8 ♖xa8 23.♘f3 ♖a2 24.b4 cxb4 25.d4 ♗f6 26.♖d1 ♖a8 1/2 Karjakin, S (2694) – Bacrot, E (2695)/Khanty-Mansiysk RUS 2007/The Week in Chess 682) 14... ♖xf7 15.♘xf7 ♘xh3+ 16.gxh3 (16.♔f1) 16... ♕d5 17.♘h6+ (17.♘e4 ♕xf7 18.axb5 ♘f3+ 19.♔g2 ♖f8 20.♖e3 ♕g6+ 21.♔h1 ♕h5 22.♕f1 ♗d6 23.♕g2 ♘h4 24.♕f1 ♘f3=; 17.♖e4 ♕xf7 18.axb5 ♖f8 19.f4 axb5 20.♖a7 ♗xe4 21.♘xe4 ♘f5 22.♕f3 c4⩱) 17... gxh6 18.♘e4 (18.♖e4 ♔h8 19.c3 ♖g8+ 20.♔f1 ♕f5 21.cxd4 ♕xh3+ 22.♔e2 ♕h5+ 23.♘f3 ♖f8→) 18... ♔h8

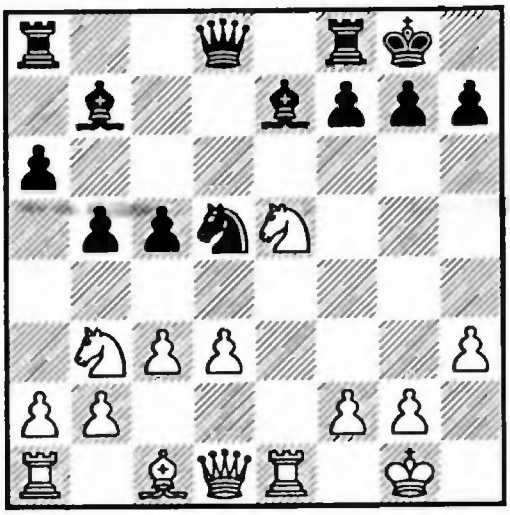


19.♖e3 (19.♗f4 ♕f5 20.♗g3 ♘f3+ 21.♔g2 ♘h4+ 22.♗xh4 ♗xh4 23.♖g1 ♖f8 24.f3 ♗c8 25.♖h1 ♕g6+ 26.♔f1 ♖g8 27.♔e2 ♕g2+ 28.♔e3 ♖e8) 19... ♗h4 20.♖g3 ♗xg3 21.fxg3 ♕f5 22.♗f4 ♖e8= ♖e4 next;
b) 13.♘ef3 ♘xb3 14.♘xb3!? (14. axb3?! ♘b4! Idea ♗f3 (Xc2) 15.♘e4 f5 16.♘eg5 (16.♘g3 ♗xf3!) 16... ♗xg5 17.♘xg5 ♕d5 18.♘f3 ♕d6 19.♘e5

♕d5 20.♘f3= Inarkiev–Cheparinov, Moscow, 2011) 14... ♕c7 15.♗d2 idea ♘a5 (15.♗g5? ♗xg5 16.♘xg5 ♘f4) 15... ♗f6 16.♖b1 (16.c3 ♖ad8) 16... a5⩱;

c) 13.♘df3 ♘xb3 14.axb3 ♘b4 (14... f6 15.♘g4 ♘b4 16.♘gh2) 15.♗d2 (15. c3 f6 16.♘g4 ♘xd3 17.♖xe7 ♕xe7 18.♕xd3 ♖ad8∞) 15... f6 16.♗xb4 fxe5 17.♗a5 (17.♗c3 ♗xf3 18.gxf3 ♗d6 19.♖e4 ♖f5↑) 17... ♕d6 18.♘d2 (18.♘xe5 ♗h4∓; 18.♖e3 ♖f5 19.♘d2 ♖af8 20.♖e2 ♕g6 21.♘e4 ♗h4↑) 18... ♗h4 19.♖f1 ♕d4 20.♕e2 ♕xb2 21.f3± Xe5

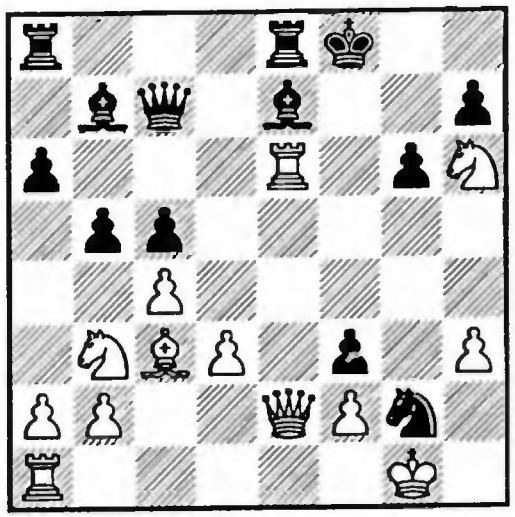
13... ♘xb3 14.♘xb3



14... ♕c7N

I saw that black two times did draw after 14.,,,♖e8 but in my opinion, move in the game is better.

14... ♖e8 15.♕h5! g6 16.♕f3 f6 (16... f5 17.♗h6 ♖c8 18.d4 c4 19.♘c5 ♗xc5 20.dxc5 ♕c7 21.c6 ♗xc6 22.♘xc6 ♕xc6 23.♖ad1 ♖xe1+ 24.♖xe1± XKe8) 17.♘g4 (17.♘xg6 hxg6 18.c4 ♕d7 19.cxd5 ♗xd5 20.♕g3 g5 21.♗e3 ♗d6 22.♕g4 ♕xg4 23.hxg4 ♖ac8 24.♖ec1 ♔f7⩱ 1/2 Hou Yifan (2557) – Kosteniuk, A (2510)/Nalchik RUS 2008 (72)) 17... ♕c7 (17... ♕b6 18.♘h6+ ♔h8 (18... ♔f8 19.♘f5!±; 18... ♔g7 19.♕g3± Bd2–c4 next) 19.♕g4 ♗f8 20.♗d2±) 18.♗d2 f5 (18... h5 19.c4±) 19.♘h6+ ♔g7 20.♖e6→ f4 (20... ♗d6 21.♖xd6 ♕xd6 22.c4 ♖ad8 23.cxd5 ♗xd5 24.♕d1± XKg7) 21.♘g4 (21.♕g4 ♔xh6 22.c4 ♗c8 23.cxd5 ♗xe6 24.♗xf4+ ♔g7 25.dxe6 ♕c6 26.d4↑) 21... ♘e3 22.♕e2 ♘xg2 23.c4 f3 24.♗c3+ ♔f8 (24... ♔f7 25.♘h6+ ♔f8



26.♖xg6 hxg6 27.♕e6+–) 25.♕e5 ♕xe5 26.♗xe5 ♔f7 27.♖b6 ♗c8 28.♘f6↑

15.♘f3

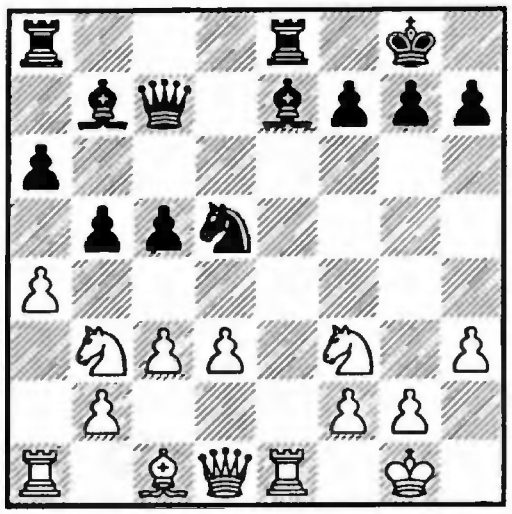
15.a4!?;

15.c4 ♘b4 (15... ♗d6 16.♘xc5 ♗xc5 17.cxd5 ♗xd5 18.d4±) 16.a3 ♘c6 17.♘xc6 ♕xc6 18.♕f3 (18.f3!?) 18... ♕xf3 19.gxf3 ♖fe8 20.♗e3 ♗f6 21.♘xc5 ♗xf3 22.♖ab1 ♖ed8⩱;

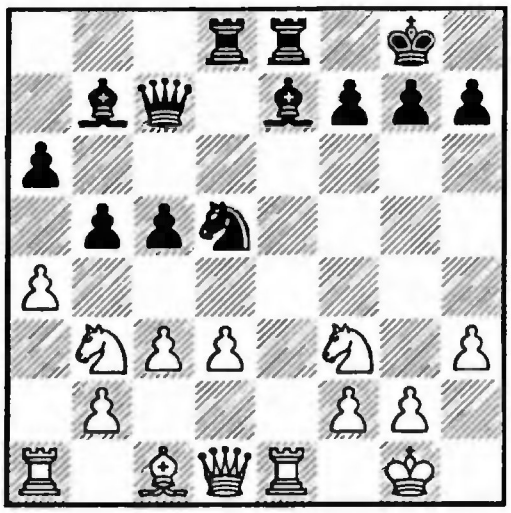
15.d4 c4 16.♘c5 ♗xc5 17.dxc5 ♖fe8=

15... ♖fe8⩱

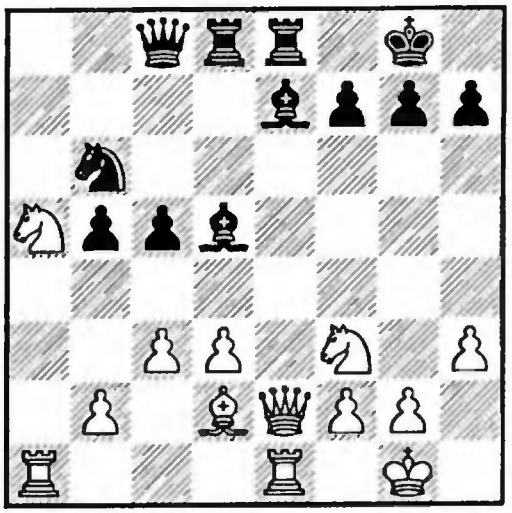
White has pawn up, but black has two bishops and more space.
16.a4



Position is more practical for black, so it is logical that Iordachescu is looking for some exchange. 16.♗g5? ♗xg5 17.♘xg5 ♘f4∓
16... ♖ad8!



Black pieces are on optimal positions, it is very hard for white to even think about the realization of a material advantage
17.axb5 axb5 18.♗d2 ♘b6
Xd3
19.♕e2 ♗d5 20.♘a5 ♕c8



21.♗e3
21.c4 bxc4 22.♘xc4 ♘xc4 23.dxc4 ♗xf3 24.♕xf3 ♖xd2 25.♖xe7 ♖xe7 26.♖a8 ♖d8 27.♖xc8 ♖xc8=; 21.d4 c4 X♘a5
21... ♗f6 22.♘h2 ♗a8 23.♘g4 ♗h4 24.♘h2 ♘d5 25.♕f1 ♘xe3
25... ♗g3
26.♖xe3 ♖xe3 27.fxe3 ♕e6 28.♕e2 ♗g5 29.♘f1 h6 30.c4 bxc4 31.♘xc4 ♗d5 32.♖a5 ♗xc4 33.dxc4 ♕e7 34.♖a3
½-½ *[Kamil Miton]*

(23) **[D11]**

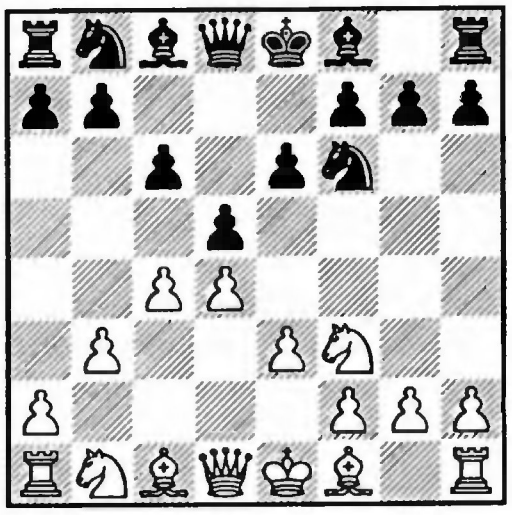
□ **So,W (2667)**

■ **Shirov,A (2701)**

19th Sigeman & Co Malmo SWE (2), 10.06.2011

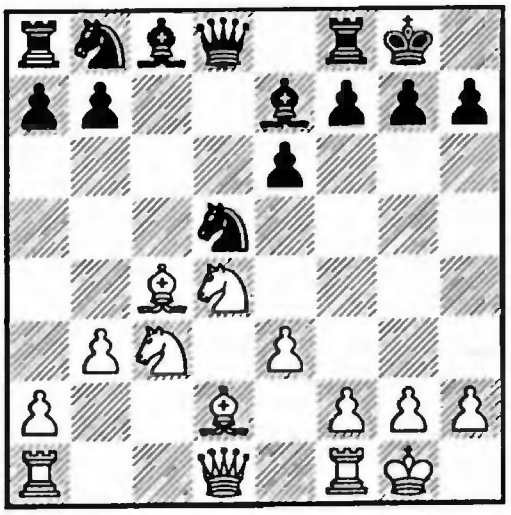
White is choosing a rare line with 5.b3 on which Black is showing what most definitely is not the greatest reaction. 5... c5! seems to give black an equal play. With 8... ♗b4? black is crossing the boarder, but still they had their last chance for c5, even if not in best version. After move 10 White got a clear advantage and a very comfortable position which W,so leading to a win by showing a nice technique and not letting his opponent get even the slightest chance of escaping

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.b3



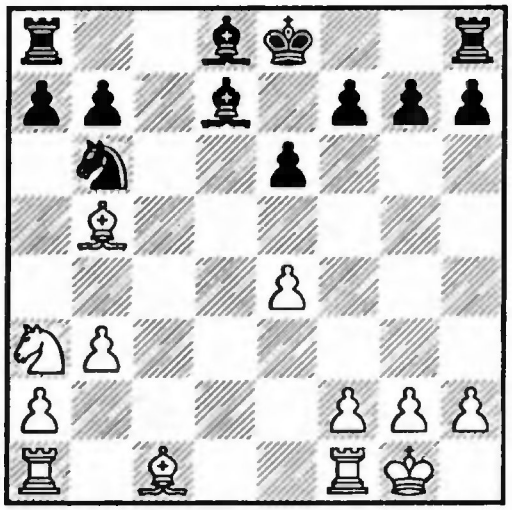
5... ♘bd7

5... c5!? The correct move. Black are trying immediatly to exchange all central pawn after which position is looking very equal 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7.♗c4 ♘c6 Both moves, 7... ♘c6 and 7... cxd4 seem to be good enough for equalisation (7... cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♗b4+! A typical 2 moves manoeuver. Black are forcing White to put the bishop on a bad square d2 and going back to e7 (8... ♗e7 9.0-0 0-0 10.♗b2 ♗f6 11.♘d2±) 9.♗d2 ♗e7 (9... ♗xd2+ 10.♕xd2 0-0 11.0-0 ♘d7 12.♗xd5 exd5 13.♘c3 ♘f6 14.♖ac1±) 10.0-0 0-0 11.♘c3



11... ♘f6! Important move to fix the equal chances. Now it is easy to see, how badly the White's bishop is placed on d2 12.♕b1 ♗d7 (12... ♘bd7 13.♗e2 ♘e5 14.♖d1 (14.♘e4 ♗d7 15.♖d1) 14... ♗d7 15.♘e4 ♖c8 16.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 17.♗b4 ♖e8 (17... ♗e7? 18.♗xe7 ♕xe7 19.♕e4 ♘c6 20.♘f5±) 18.♘b5 ♕b6 19.♖d6 ♘c6=) 13.♖d1 ♘c6 14.♘f3 a6 15.♘e4 (15.e4 ♕c7) 15... ♘xe4 16.♕xe4 ♗f6 17.♖ac1 ♕e7= Black completely finished their development and are not even in the slightest danger of getting worse) 8.0-0 cxd4 (8... ♗e7 9.dxc5 ♗xc5 10.♗b2 0-0 11.♘c3 ♘xc3 12.♗xc3±) 9.♘xd4 ♘xd4 10.♕xd4 ♗e7 11.e4 The only way to

fight for an advantage (11.♗b2 ♗f6 12.♕d2 ♗xb2 13.♕xb2 ♕f6 14.♕xf6 ♘xf6=) 11... ♘b6 12.♕xd8+ ♗xd8 13.♗b5+ ♗d7 14.♘a3



Blacks position is looking little dangerous, but they are just in time to furfill their development. 14... 0-0 (14... ♗e7 15.♖d1 0-0) 15.♗e3 ♗e7 16.♖fd1 ♖fd8 17.♗xd7 ♘xd7 18.♘c4 (18.♘b5 ♘c5 19.f3 a6 20.♘d4 ♖d7=) 18... b6 19.♔f1 ♘c5 20.f3 f6 21.♔e2 ♔f7=

6.♗d3 ♗d6

A bit strange play from Shirov, who already had this position at the board in his game against Wang, H. 6... ♗d6 doesn't look like an improvement on his previous game.

6... ♘e4 7.0-0 f5 8.♗a3 ♗xa3 9.♘xa3 0-0 10.b4?! a5∞ Wang,H -Shirov,A Tata Steel 2011

7.♗b2 ♕e7 8.♘e5

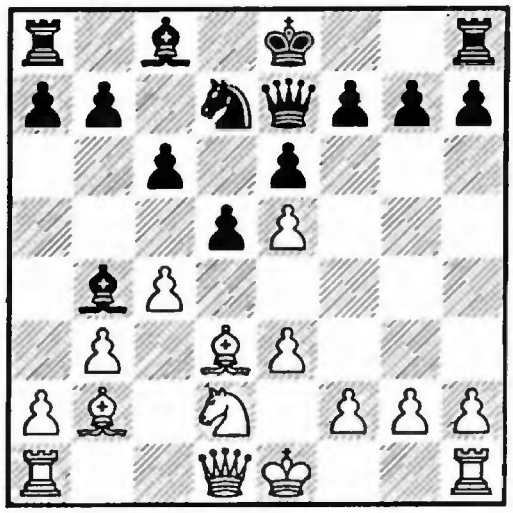
8.0-0 e5= 9.dxe5 ♘xe5 10.cxd5 ♘xd5

8... ♗b4+?!

Black are missing their last chance to stay in the game.

8... c5!? 9.0-0 (9.cxd5 cxd4! 10.exd4 ♘xd5) 9... 0-0 (9... cxd4 10.exd4 0-0 11.♘d2 b6) 10.♘d2 b6 11.cxd5 exd5 12.f4±

9.♘d2 ♘xe5 10.dxe5 ♘d7



11.a3

There is no reason to give black a possibility to exchange black's squared bishop, even then white's position stays clearly better

11.0-0 ♗a3

11... ♗a5

11... ♗xd2+ Of course with this move black would admit that their position is bad, but if the sky getting brighter after 11... ♗a5-I don't think so. It is always important to try to find chances, even in a bad position, so probably 11... ♗xd2 would give black a better practical chance than the move in the game 12.♕xd2 b6 13.b4 (13.0-0 ♘c5 14.♗c2 ♗a6 15.♕c3 (15.♕d4 0-0 16.♕f4 ♖fd8 17.♖fd1 dxc4 18.bxc4 ♘b7=) 15... 0-0 16.♖ad1 ♖fd8 17.♖d4±) 13... ♗a6 14.cxd5 ♗xd3 15.d6 ♕g5 16.♕xd3 ♕xg2 17.♔e2 ♕g4+ 18.♔d2±

12.0-0 f6

What else to do? Whites plan is very simple and strong: f4,♘f3 with a strong attack

13.♘f3 ♗c7 14.exf6!?

Very logical and good decision by White. Black can't take back with the pawn, because after 14... gxf6 15.e4! whole blacks position is resembling a house after an earthquake

14... ♘xf6 15.♘e5 0-0 16.f4± ♗d7

Finally, black managed to develop their bishop on d7 and soon to e8–h5, but it doesn't help them much. White got a clear advantage because of the monster field on e5 protected with a super strong black squared bishop on b2, and the soon comming attack on the Black's kind

17.♖f3 ♗e8 18.♕c2 ♗xe5

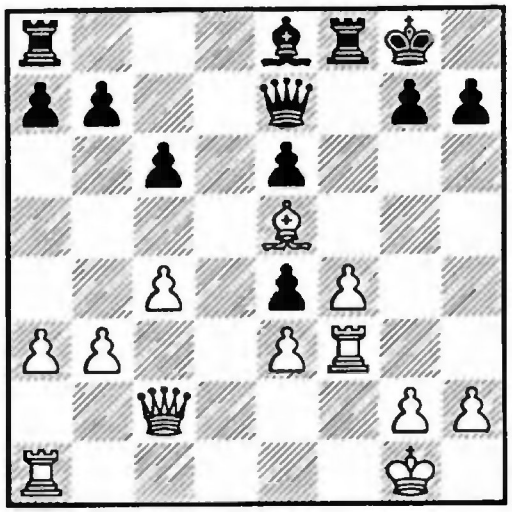
This is almost a resignation. But what else is left to do for Black?

18... ♗h5 19.♖g3 dxc4 20.bxc4 ♖ad8 21.♖f1±

19.♗xe5 ♘e4!?

Last trick, hoping for Whites greediness

20.♗xe4 dxe4

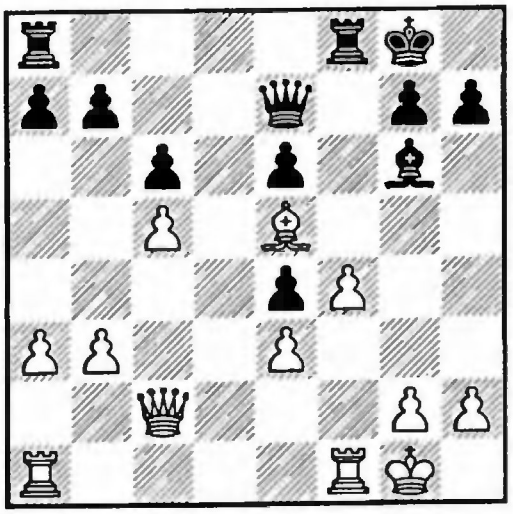


21.♖ff1!

Very logical and strong!

21.♕xe4? To take the pawn on e4 would be now a big mistake because of 21... ♗g6 22.♕d4 ♖fd8 23.♕b2 ♖d7=

21... ♗g6 22.c5±



White's position is much better, not to say close to winning. Black got absolutely no counterplay, while white will slowly improve their pieces, W. So is showing us how to do it in a perfect way!

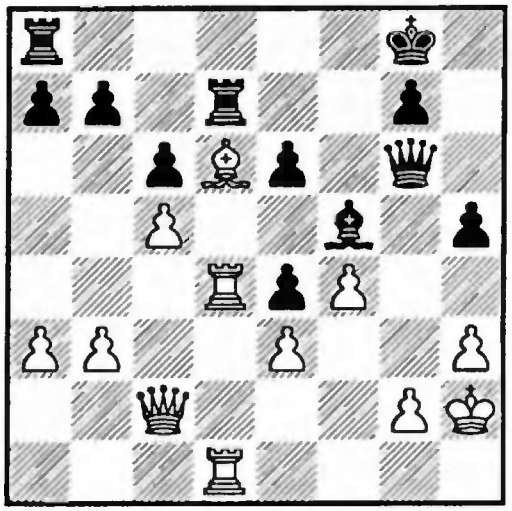
22... ♖fd8 23.♗d6

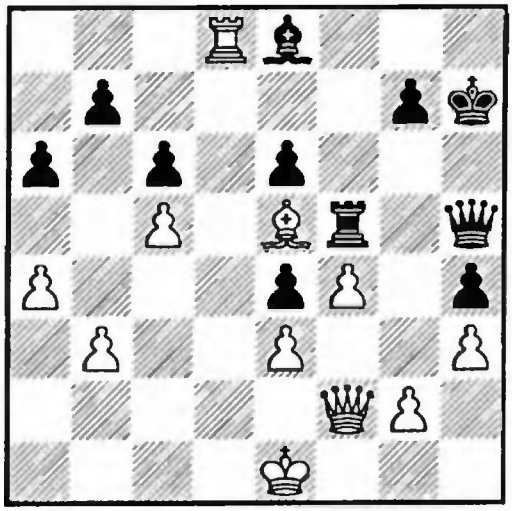
First step, winning the fight at the only open line, the d line. Of course now 23.♖fd1 would be a big mistake, because of 23... ♖d5

23... ♕f7 24.♖ad1 ♗f5 25.♖d4 ♖d7 26.h3 h5

Black has to avoid a g4 move at any case...

27.♖fd1 ♕g6 28.♔h2





28... h4?!

Black are giving up to d line. Better chances would give 28... ♖ad8 Of course, even if the position remains very bad, White could then switch to a different plan, ♕f2–h4, ♖g1 and g4

29.♕f2 ♕h5 30.♖1d2 ♔h7

30... ♖ad8 31.♗e7

31.♗e5

First step is done, d line is Whites.

31... ♖f7 32.♖d7 ♖af8 33.♖2d6 ♔g8 34.♖xf7 ♖xf7 35.♖d8+ ♔h7 36.a4 a6 37.♕e1

Black almost can't move, and White got almost all time in the world to improve their position to maximum.

37... ♗g6 38.♔g1 ♗f5 39.♕f2 ♗g6 40.♔f1 ♖f5 41.♔e1 ♗e8

Trying the last hope, the g5 push

42.♕d2!

No Alexey, in this game You will not get it

42... ♕g6 43.♖b8 ♕g3+ 44.♕f2+–

And position is winning, Black cant avoid big material losses. Great technique by Young Philippines Gm W,So!

44... ♗h5 45.♖xb7 ♖f7 46.♕xg3 hxg3 47.♖b6 ♖d7 48.♗d6

Blocking again all the entries

48... e5!?

Last push, which of course also brings nothing for black.

49.fxe5 ♖f7 50.e6

The rest doesn't need any comments

50... ♖f2 51.♗xg3 ♖xg2 52.♗f4 g5 53.♔f1 ♖c2 54.♗xg5 ♖xc5 55.h4 ♔g6 56.e7 ♔f5 57.♖b8 ♖e5 58.♖f8+ ♔g4 59.♔g2

A great technical game by White

1-0 *[A.Naiditsch]*

(24) **[D11]**

□ **Volkov,Sergey1 (2621)**

■ **Sokolov,Ivan (2643)**

Nakhchivan Open Nakhchivan AZE (8), 30.04.2011

With 6... ♕c7 black is trying to divert from well throdden 6... ♕b6 7.♘h4 lines, where (in a large majority) of them white has "safe" life. In the comments reader would find that (compared to text) new ideas 9.cxd5 (for white) and 9... ♘e4 (for black) are worth exploring. In the game, white has a strong improvement in 20.♘c3! and black is in serious trouble. White has definitely missed black 23... ♕c8 and related tactics after which his position quickly collapsed. Last 20 moves of the game were simply delay of the execution (white could have safely resigne earlier)

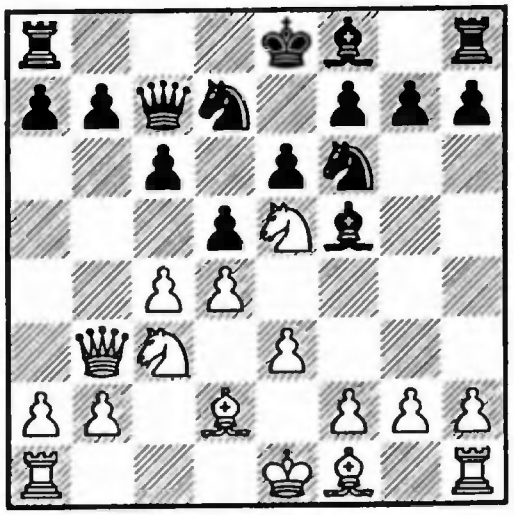
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 ♗g4 5.♘c3 e6 6.♕b3 ♕c7

In most top games 6... ♕b6 7.♘h4 was explored on

7.♗d2

The most logical white continuation idea with 7.♘h4 looks more logical after ♗d2 and ♖c1;

7.♘e5 was tried in practice and does not pose any problems for black after 7... ♗f5 8.♗d2 ♘bd7

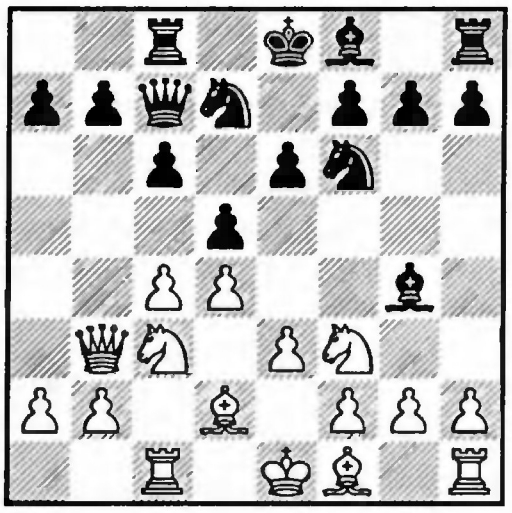


9.♘xd7 (white got in trouble after 9.f4 ♗e7 10.♗e2 0-0 11.0-0 ♘e4 12.♘xe4 ♗xe4 13.♘xd7 ♕xd7 14.♗b4 b6! 15.♗xe7 ♕xe7 16.♖ac1 c5 17.cxd5 exd5 as in Burmakin, V (2522) – Gurevich, M (2688) Ohrid 2001/CBM 084 (79)) 9... ♕xd7 10.♗e2 ♗d6 11.0-0 0-0 Steingrimsson,H (2550)–Vasquez Schroeder,R (2521)/Khanty-Mansiysk RUS 2010/The Week in Chess 830 (33);

positions after 7.♗e2 ♘bd7 8.h3 ♗h5 9.♗d2 ♗d6 10.♖c1 ♕b8 11.0-0 0-0 12.♖fd1 a6 13.a4 ♘e4 never worry black here Dao Thien Hai (2510)–Ni Hua (2710)/Beijing 2008/CBM 126 Extra (38)

7... ♘bd7 8.♖c1 ♖c8

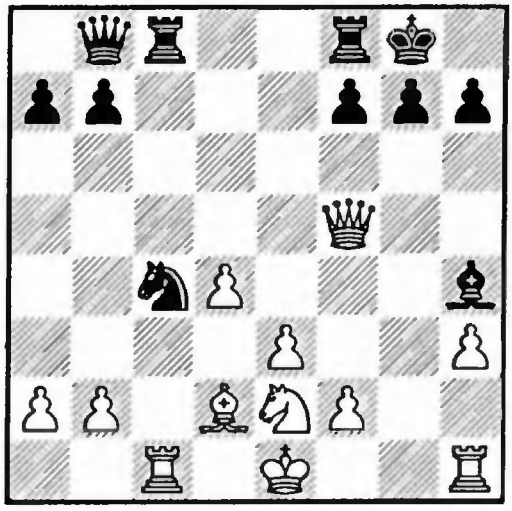
www.chess-evolution.com



[Immediate 8... ♗xf3 (without waiting for white to spend tempi on h2–h3) does not equalize for black 9.gxf3 ♘b6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.e4 ♕d7 12.♗e3 ♗e7 13.e5 ♘h5 14.♘e2 g6 15.♘g3 ♘g7 16.h4 f5 17.h5 0-0-0 18.a4 white had strong initiative and soon won in Mikhalevski,V (2631) –Pavlovic,M (2535)/ Zuerich 2009/CBM 131 Extra (29)

9.♘h4

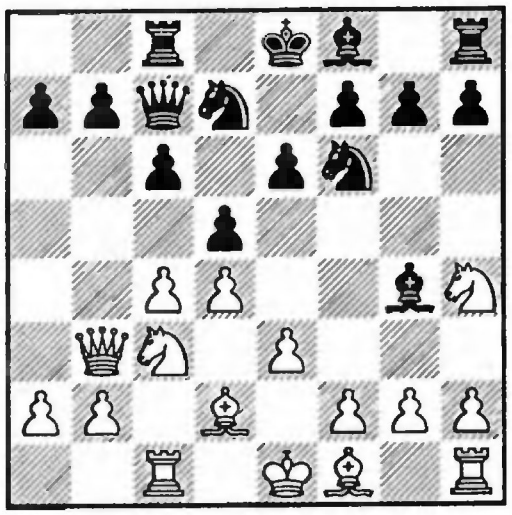
In the case of 9.h3 ♗xf3 10.gxf3 ♗e7 black has extra tempi (compared to Mikhalevski–Pavlovic from above) and game is not clear 11.cxd5 ♘xd5 12.f4 (or 12.♘xd5 exd5 13.e4 0-0 14.♗d3 (black has strong compensation in the event of 14.exd5 ♗f6) 14... ♘f6 15.e5 ♘e8 16.f4 f5 17.h4 ♕b6 18.♕a4 a5!) 12... 0-0 13.♗g2 ♕b8 (better was 13... ♘7f6 with an unclear game, since is now 14.f5? a blunder due to simple 14... ♘xc3 15.♗xc3 exf5) 14.f5! white is now better 14... ♗h4 (in the case of 14... ♘xc3? white has zwischen-zug in 15.fxe6) 15.♘e2 (also 15.fxe6 fxe6 16.0-0 looks like a safe advantage for white) 15... exf5 16.♗xd5 cxd5 17.♕xd5 ♘b6 18.♕xf5 ♘c4



black compensation is for draw at best 19.b3 g6 20.♕f3 ♘xd2 21.♔xd2 ♗e7 22.♖xc8 ♖xc8 23.♖c1 black ultimately drew in Miroshnichenko,E (2696)–Sandipan,C (2585)/Zuerich 2009/CBM 131 Extra (35); Interesting attempt for white is 9.cxd5!? exd5 (9... ♘xd5 10.♗e2±) 10.h3 ♗xf3 (black can try 10... ♗f5 11.g4 ♗e4 (11... ♗g6?? 12.g5 ♘e4 13.♘xd5)) 11.gxf3 ♗e7 12.e4

9... dxc4

White is better in the case of 9... g5 10.h3 ♗h5 11.♘f3 h6 12.cxd5 exd5 13.♗d3; black can try to provoke white c4–c5 in order to fix center and later strike with e5–e6 –a common idea in those positions 9... ♘b6!? 10.c5 ♘bd7 11.h3 ♗h5 12.g4 ♗g6 13.♘xg6 hxg6 14.g5 ♘g8 though white looks a bit better(14... ♘h7? 15.f4 b6? 16.cxb6 axb6 17.♗a6 ♖a8 18.♘b5+–) ;

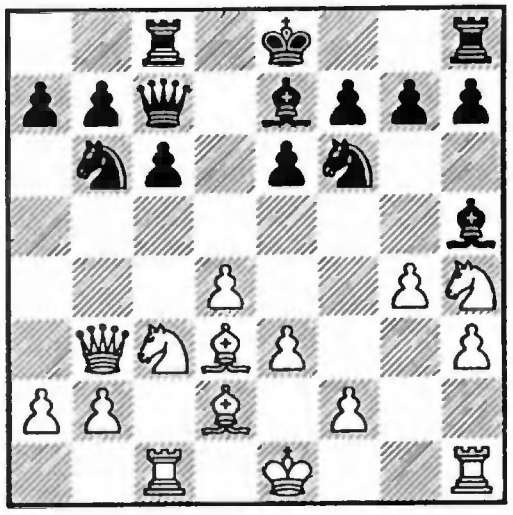


interesting attempt for black is 9... ♘e4!? 10.♘xe4 dxe4 11.h3 (11.♕c2 ♗e7 12.♕xe4?? terribly blunders to 12... f5 13.♕xe6 ♘f8) 11... ♗h5 12.g4 (only black can be better after 12.♕c2 ♗e7 13.♕xe4 f5 14.♕xe6 ♗f7 15.♕xf5 ♗xh4) 12... ♗e7 and black is doing fine

10.♗xc4 ♘b6

10... ♗e7?! 11.h3 ♗h5 12.g4

11.♗d3 ♗e7 12.h3 ♗h5 13.g4



13... ♗g6

Is bad after 13... ♘fd7? 14.♘f5!± (14. gxh5 ♗xh4 15.♘e4 ♘f6 is less clear) 14... exf5 15.gxh5 g6 16.a4! a5 17.♘b5 ♕b8 18.♘a3 ♕a7 19.♘c4 ♘xc4 (counterplay attempt with 19... 0-0 20.♘xa5 c5 loses after 21.hxg6 hxg6 22.♗xf5 gxf5 (22... cxd4 23.♖xc8 ♖xc8 24.♗xg6) 23.♖g1+ ♔h8 24.dxc5 ♘xc5 (24... ♖xc5 25.♖xc5 ♗xc5 26.♕d1 ♘f6 27.♗c3) 25.♖xc5 ♖xc5 26.♕d1) 20.♗xc4 0-0 21.♖g1 ♔g7 22.♗e6!

14.♘xg6 hxg6 15.g5 ♘fd7

In the case of 15... ♘fd5 white is better after 16.f4! stabilizing center and having a space advantage(16.♘e4 e5 is fine for black, e.g. 17.dxe5 ♕xe5 18.a4 ♕e6!)

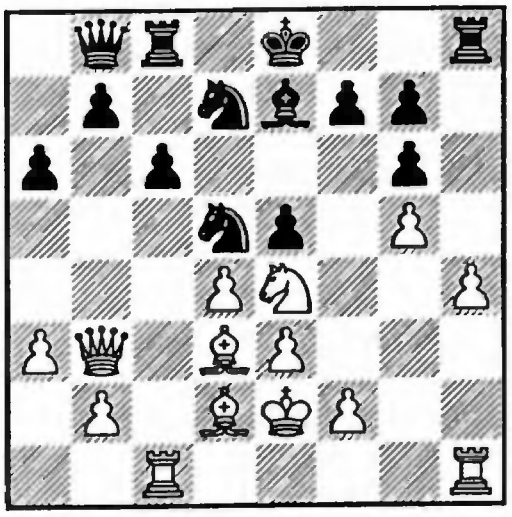
16.♘e4

16.f4 white also has some advantage in the case of 16... c5 17.♗e4

16... ♘d5 17.h4

White has a space advantage and it is not easy for black to create counterplay

17... a6 18.♔e2 ♕b8 19.a3 e5



Central break is the most logical way for black to create counterplay here

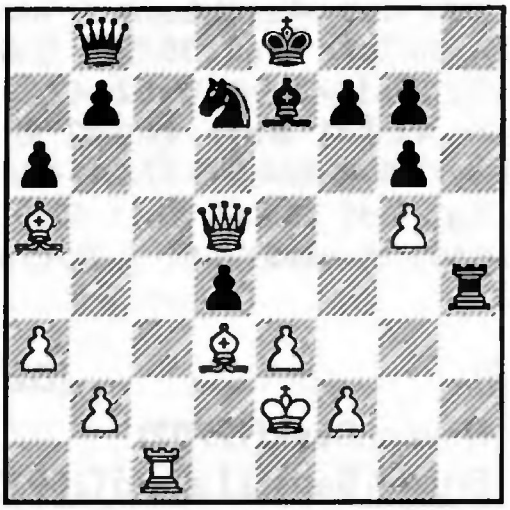
20.dxe5

White had here a very strong response in 20.♘c3! and black would have been in a very serious trouble, e.g. 20... ♘7b6 arguably the best for black

a) 20... ♘xc3+? 21.♗xc3 exd4 22.♗xd4+−;

b) 20... ♘5b6? 21.h5 gxh5 22.g6;

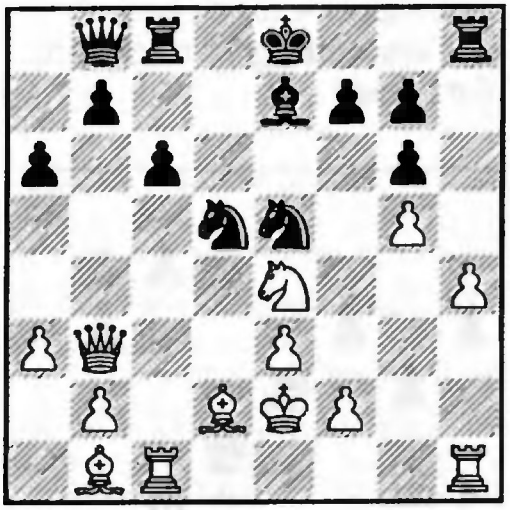
c) 20... exd4 21.♘xd5 cxd5 22.exd4 (also good for white is 22.♕xd5 ♖xc1 (22... ♖d8 23.♕e4± (23.exd4 ♘c5 24.♕c4 ♘xd3 25.♕xd3 ♕d6 26.♗e3 is a sound pawn up) 23... dxe3 24.♗xe3) 23.♖xc1 ♖xh4 24.♗a5+−



24... dxe3 (24... ♗d8 25.♗xg6; 24... b6 25.♗xa6 ♘c5 26.♕c6+ ♔f8 27.♗xb6) 25.♖c7) 22... ♖d8 (22... ♖xc1 23.♖xc1 ♖xh4 24.♗e3±) 23.♔d1 (23.♕xd5 ♘c5 24.♕c4 ♘xd3 25.♕xd3 ♕d6 26.♗e3 is a sound pawn up position) 23... 0-0 24.h5 gxh5 25.♖xh5 g6 26.♖h6 ♔g7 27.♔c2 ♖c8+ 28.♔b1 ♖xc1+ 29.♗xc1 with a large advantage for white;

d) 20... ♘c7? 21.h5; 21.♘xd5 (white also better in the case of 21.e4 ♘xc3+ 22.♗xc3 ♘d7) 21... ♘xd5 22.e4 ♘f4+ 23.♗xf4 exf4 24.♗c4 ♖f8 white is better(24... 0-0? 25.h5+−) ; black is fine in the case of 20.♗c4 ♘7b6 21.♗xd5 ♘xd5 22.dxe5 ♕xe5 23.♕xb7 0-0 black has (as minimum) a strong compensation here(black may also consider playing "like Morphy" with 23... ♖c7 24.♕b8+ ♔d7 25.♕xh8 ♕xe4 26.f3 ♘f4+ 27.♔f2 ♘d3+ 28.♔g2 ♕e5 29.♕g8 (29.♖c3 ♗d6 30.♔f1 ♘xb2) 29... ♕xb2)

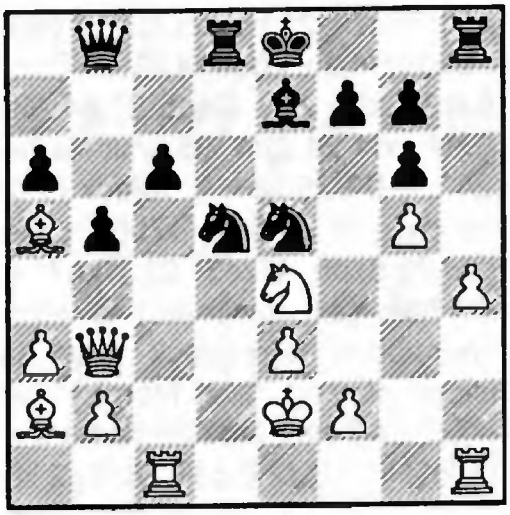
20... ♘xe5 21.♗b1



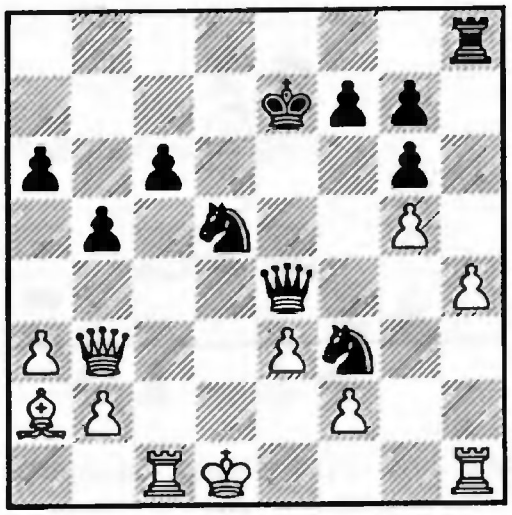
21... b5!

Black has here strong counterplay and is soon taking over

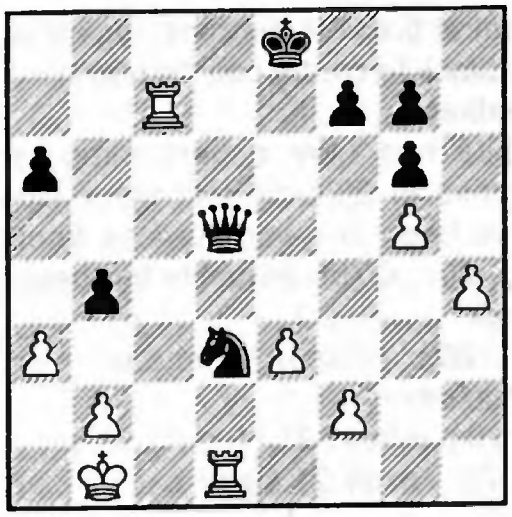
22.♗a2 ♖d8! 23.♗a5?!



Missing on black's idea
23... ♕c8! 24.♗xd8 ♕g4+ 25.♔d2 ♕xe4 26.♗xe7 ♘f3+!
Tactics are working for black here
27.♔d1 ♔xe7



28.♖xc6
Or 28.♖c2 ♘d4-+
28... ♘e5! 29.♕xd5 ♖d8 30.♖c7+ ♔e8 31.♔c1 ♖xd5-+ 32.♗xd5 ♘d3+ 33.♔b1 ♕xd5 34.♖d1 b4



Combination of black material advantage and white open king, play a crucial role. Position is an easily winning one for black.
35.axb4 ♕b3 36.♖d2 ♘xb4 37.♖c8+ ♔e7 38.♖c7+ ♔e6 39.♖d8 ♕a2+ 40.♔c1 ♕a1+ 41.♔d2 ♕xb2+ 42.♔e1 ♘c2+ 43.♔d1 ♕b1+ 44.♔d2 ♘b4 45.♔e2 a5 46.♖d4 ♕f5 47.♔f1 ♕b5+ 48.♔g1 ♘d5 49.♖a7 ♕b1+ 50.♔g2 ♕b6 51.♖a8 ♘xe3+ 0-1 *[I. Sokolov]*

(25) **[D23]**

□ Navara,David (2702)

■ Bruzon Batista,Lazaro (2693)

46th Capablanca Memorial Elite Havana CUB (2), 12.05.2011

1.d4

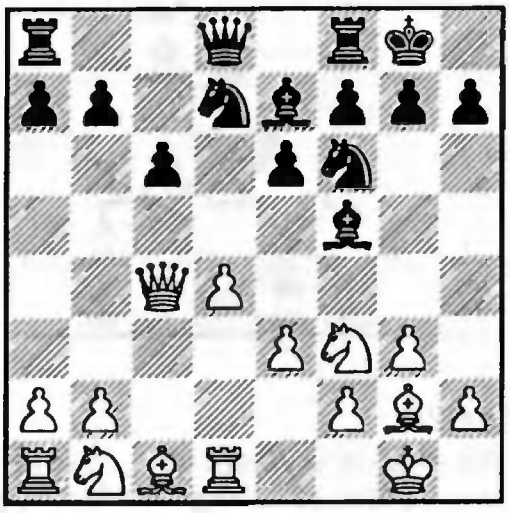
An interesting pawn-sac brings new life in a solid variation. Since black doesn't accept the challenge, he has to fight hard to defend, but objectivly, the position is looking closer to equality. Finally, it is the mistake in a difficult situation that give to Navara the possibility of finishing off the

game in a great style. And he did!

1... d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♕c2 dxc4 5.♕xc4 ♗f5 6.g3 e6 7.♗g2 ♗e7 8.0-0 ♘bd7 9.e3

A typical "creeping" move, following the idea of giving to he queen the useful e2 square. More common is 9.♘c3 0-0 10.e3

9... 0-0 10.♖d1!?

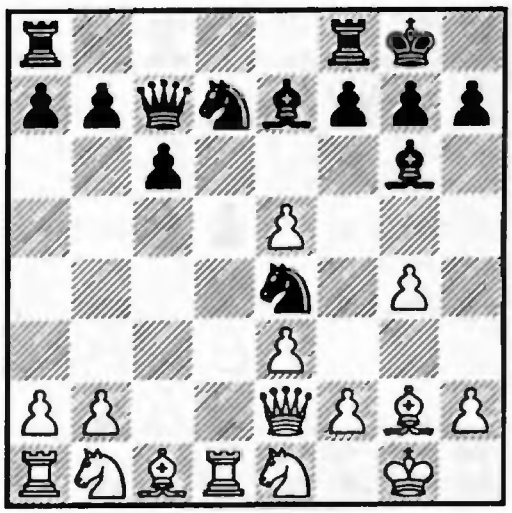


10.♘c3 is more popular and enjoy the main-line status

10... ♕c7

Black tries to break free with e5 and prapares this move.

10... ♘e4 Alekseev-Inarkiev, FIDE GP, Astrakhan 2010 11.♕e2 ♕c7 12.♘e1 (12.♘bd2!? ♘xd2 13.♘xd2 and if 13... e5?! then 14.e4 ♗e6 (14... ♗g6 15.dxe5 ♘xe5? 16.f4 ♘d7 17.f5+-) 15.d5 cxd5 16.exd5 ♗f5 17.♗e4! ♗g6 18.♗xg6 hxg6 19.♘e4± ♗d6 20.♗e3 ♖ac8 21.♖ac1 ♕b8 22.♗xa7!) 12... e5?! (12... ♗g6!?; 12... c5!?) 13.♘d3?! (13.g4! ♗g6 14.dxe5



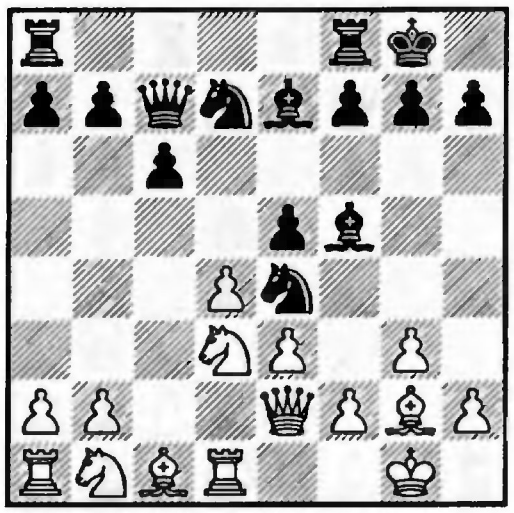
a) 14... ♘xf2!? 15.♕xf2 ♘xe5 16.♘c3 (16.h3 f5 17.g5 ♗xg5 18.♘c3 ♗h5 19.♘f3 ♕e7⩱) 16... ♘xg4 (16... f5 17.g5 ♗xg5 18.♘f3 ♗f6 19.♘xe5 ♗xe5 20.♗f3±) 17.♕g3 ♘e5 18.e4±

b) 14... ♘xe5 15.f4+-;

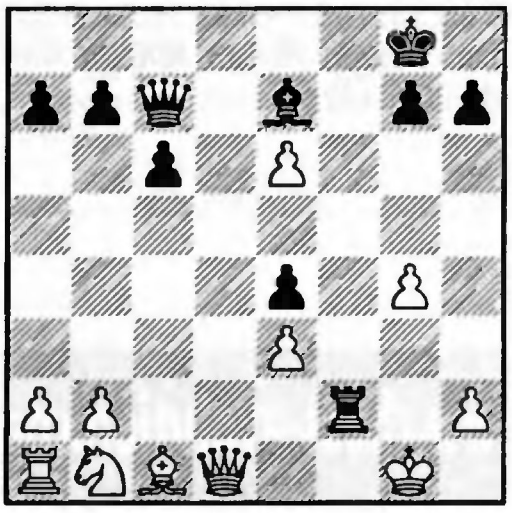
c) 14... f5 15.gxf5 ♘xf2 (15... ♗xf5 16.♗xe4 ♗xe4 17.♕c4+ ♗d5 18.♖xd5 ♘b6 19.♖d7+ ♘xc4 20.♖xc7+-) 16.♖xd7 ♕xd7 17.fxg6 hxg6 18.♘f3 ♘d3 19.♘c3±;

d) 14... ♖ad8 15.f4 (15.f3 ♘ec5 16.f4 f5 17.gxf5 ♗xf5 18.♘c3 ♘b6 19.e4 ♗e6 20.b3±) 15... ♘xe5 16.♖xd8 ♖xd8 17.fxe5 ♕xe5 18.♘f3 ♕f6 19.♘bd2 ♘xd2 20.♘xd2±;)

www.chess-evolution.com

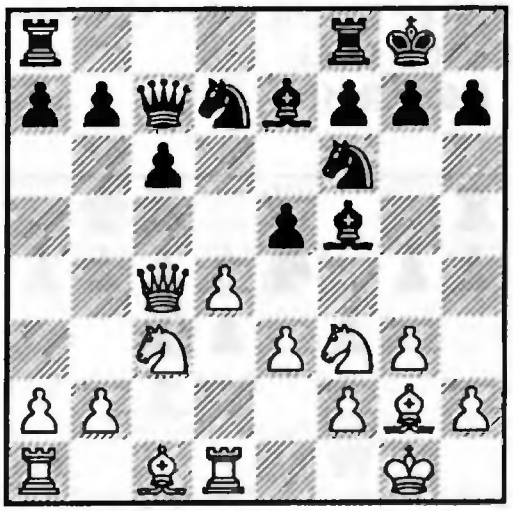


13... ♖ad8 (13... exd4?! 14.g4! (14.exd4 ♘df6 15.♘e5 h6!=) 14... ♗g6 15.exd4 ♘df6 16.g5 ♗d6 17.gxf6 ♗xh2+ 18.♔h1 ♖fe8 19.♗e3 ♘xf6 20.♘c3±) 14.g4 ♗g6 15.f4 exf4? (15... f5! 16.♗xe4 (16.gxf5 ♗xf5 17.fxe5 ♘b6 18.♘c3 ♘xc3 19.bxc3 ♕d7 20.♖f1 ♗g4 21.♕c2 ♖xf1+ 22.♗xf1 ♖f8≅) 16... fxe4 17.♘xe5 ♘xe5 18.dxe5 (18.fxe5 ♕d7 19.♘d2 c5-+) 18... ♖d3≅ 19.♘c3 (19.f5 ♖xd1+ 20.♕xd1 ♗f7 21.e6 ♗xe6! 22.fxe6 ♖f2!!



23.♔xf2 ♕xh2+ 24.♔f1 ♗h4-+) 19... h5! 20.gxh5 ♗f5 and Black controls all white squares, which promises a very good compensation.)

11.♘c3 e5



12.e4!?N

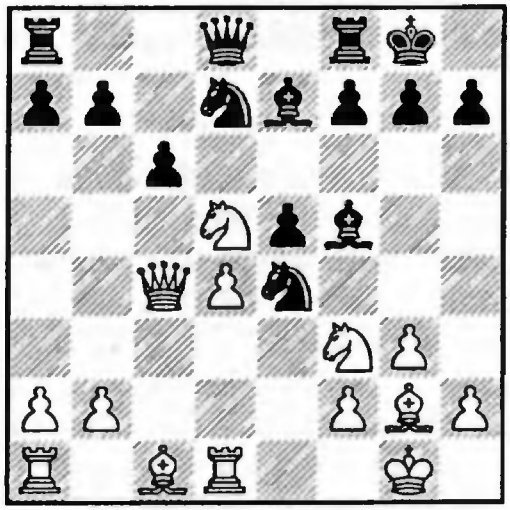
12.h3 Hellsten-Valenzuela, Santiago Endesa 2006 12... ♖ad8 13.♕e2 ♗b4 (13... ♘e4?! 14.♘xe4 ♗xe4 15.♘xe5! ♗xg2 16.♘xd7 ♖xd7 17.♔xg2 c5 18.d5 (18.b3! cxd4 19.♗b2 ♕c6+ (19... dxe3 20.♖ac1 ♕d8 21.♕g4+-) 20.♕f3 d3 21.♗d4!±) 18... ♕e5 19.e4 f5≅ 20.d6!? ♗f6 21.♕c4+ ♔h8 22.♗f4 ♕xe4+ 23.♕xe4 fxe4=) 14.♗d2 (14.e4 ♗xc3 15.exf5 ♗xd4 16.♘xd4 exd4 17.♖xd4 ♕a5 18.g4 ♘b6 19.♗d2 ♕c5 20.♖xd8 ♖xd8=) 14... ♗xc3 15.♗xc3 e4 16.♘d2 ♖fe8 Black blockades the center and can bravely look forward to the future.

12... ♗g4

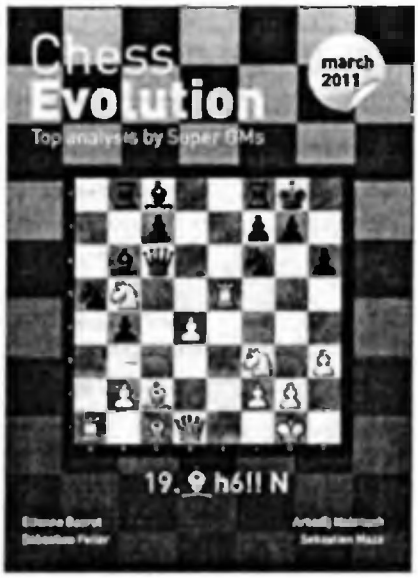
A solid option, but of course the real test was to take the pawn. Very interesting variations arise.

12... ♘xe4 13.♘d5 (13.dxe5 ♘xc3 14.♕xc3 ♖ad8 15.♗f4 ♕b6 16.♘d4

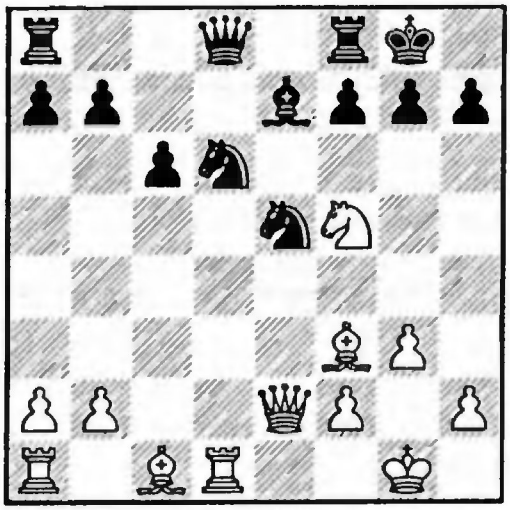
♗g4 17.♗f3 ♗xf3 18.♕xf3 g6 19.e6 ♘f6 20.exf7+ ♖xf7 21.♘e6 ♖xd1+ 22.♖xd1 ♘d5= (22... ♕xb2? 23.♘g5 ♖g7 (23... ♖f8 24.♕e3 ♕a3 25.♕e6+ ♔g7 26.♗e5+−; 23... ♕xa2 24.♘xf7 ♕xf7 25.♖b1 ♗f8 26.♗e5 ♗g7 27.♗xf6 ♗xf6 28.♕g4 b6 29.♕c8+ ♔g7 30.♖d1 ♗e7 31.♕xc6+−) 24.♕e3 ♕xa2 25.♗d6 ♗xd6 (25... ♗d8 26.♗c5 ♗c7 27.♗d4 ♕d5 28.♖d2+−) 26.♖xd6+−)) 13... ♕d8



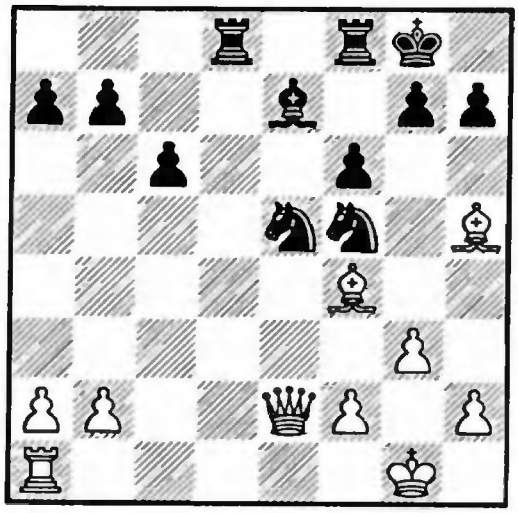
14.♘e3! (14.♘xe7+ ♕xe7 15.♕e2 (15.♘h4 ♗g4 16.f3 ♗e6 17.♕e2 ♘ef6

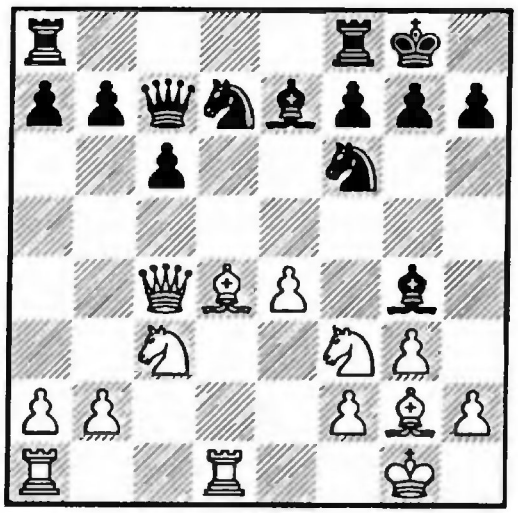


18.dxe5 ♕c5+∓) 15... ♖fe8 16.♘h4 ♘d6 17.dxe5 ♘xe5 18.♗f4 g5 19.♕xe5 ♕xe5 20.♗xe5 ♖xe5 21.f4!± (21.♘f3±)) 14... ♘d6 15.♕e2 ♗e4 (15... exd4 16.♘xd4 ♗g6 17.♗xc6! bxc6 (17... ♖c8 18.♗g2± White pieces are better placed.) 18.♘xc6 ♕e8 19.♘d5 ♗f6 20.♘de7+ ♔h8 21.♖xd6 ♘e5 22.♗g5!±) 16.dxe5 ♗xf3 17.♗xf3 ♘xe5 18.♘f5



18... f6 (18... ♘g6 19.♘xe7+ ♘xe7 20.♗f4 ♘ef5 21.♖xd6 ♘xd6 22.♖d1±) **a)** 19.♗h5!? ♘xf5! (19... g6 20.f4 gxh5 21.fxe5 fxe5 22.♘h6+ ♔g7 (22... ♔h8 23.♕xe5+ ♗f6 24.♕xd6 ♕b6+ 25.♔g2 ♖ad8 26.♕a3!+−) 23.♕xe5+ ♗f6 24.♕xh5 (24.♕xd6? ♕b6+ 25.♔g2 ♖ad8 26.♘f5+ ♔g6 27.♕f4 (27.♕a3 ♖xd1 28.♗e3 ♕d8 29.♖xd1 ♕xd1 30.♕xf8 ♕d5+ 31.♔g1 ♔xf5∓) 27... ♖xd1 28.♕h6+ ♔xf5 29.♕xh5+ ♔e6 30.♕xd1 ♕b5∓) 24... ♔h8 25.♗f4 ♕b6+ 26.♔h1 ♘e4 27.♘g4 ♖ad8 28.♘xf6 ♘xf6 29.♗e5 ♖xd1+ 30.♖xd1±) 20.♖xd8 ♖axd8 21.♗f4





White shoud be better here, but it is not so easy to get a victory.

b) 19.♗f4 g6 (19... ♕c7 20.♘d4 ♖f7 21.♗g2 ♖e8 22.♗h3±) 20.♘d4 ♕a5 21.♗g2 ♖fe8 22.a3 ♗f8 23.b4 ♕b6 24.♕a2+ ♔h8 25.♖ac1⩲ White has more than enough compensation for the pawn.;

c) 19.♗g4 ♖e8 20.♗f4 ♕c7 (20... ♗f8? 21.♖xd6 ♗xd6 22.♖d1+−) 21.♗xe5 (21.♘d4 ♘xg4 22.♕xg4 ♕c8 23.♘e6 ♗f8 24.♖xd6 f5∓) 21... fxe5 22.♕xe5 ♗f8=;

13.♗e3 exd4

13... ♖ad8!? It was better not to hurry with taking on d4 and to mobilize all forces first.

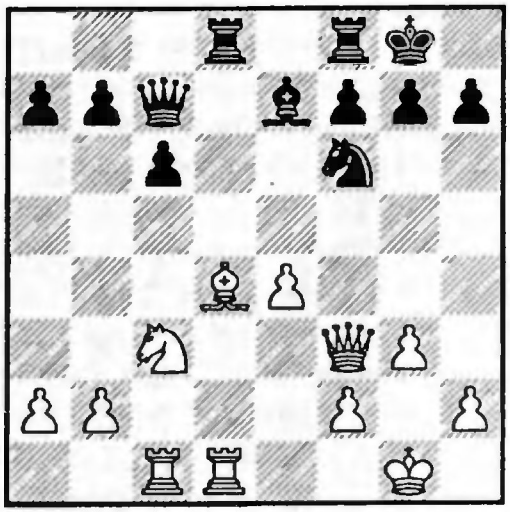
14.♗xd4

14... ♗xf3

14... ♖ad8? now it's bad− 15.e5 ♘e8 (15... ♗xf3 16.exf6+−) 16.♕e2! ♗e6 17.♖ac1 And Black are completely raped.; 14... c5 15.♗xf6 ♗xf6 (15... ♘xf6 16.e5 ♗e6 17.♕f4 ♘d7 18.♘d5 ♗xd5 19.♖xd5±) 16.♘d5 ♕d6 (16... ♕a5 17.♘xf6+ gxf6 (17... ♘xf6? 18.e5 ♗e6 19.♕c2 ♘g4 20.♘g5 g6 21.♕e2 ♘h6 22.♗xb7+−) 18.♕c1±) 17.♖ac1 ♘e5 (17... ♗xb2 18.♘e3 ♕e6 19.♘xg4 ♕xg4 20.♖b1 ♘b6 21.♕xc5 ♗f6 22.e5 ♖ac8 23.♕a3 ♘c4 24.♕xa7 ♘xe5 25.♘xe5 ♗xe5 26.♕xb7±) 18.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 19.♘xe5 ♕xe5 20.f3 ♗e6 21.♕c2 ♖ac8 22.f4 ♕c7 23.e5 g6 24.♖d6±

15.♗xf3 ♘e5 16.♕e2 ♘xf3+ 17.♕xf3 ♖ad8 18.♖ac1±

www.chess-evolution.com



White can enjoy a healthy initiative thanks to the better placed pieces and the classical majority in the center, while for Black it's not easy to find a clear path to equalize.

18... ♕a5 19.a3 ♖fe8 20.♔g2

White shows with such a small moves, that everything is under control.

20... h6 21.h4 a6 22.♖c2 ♘h7

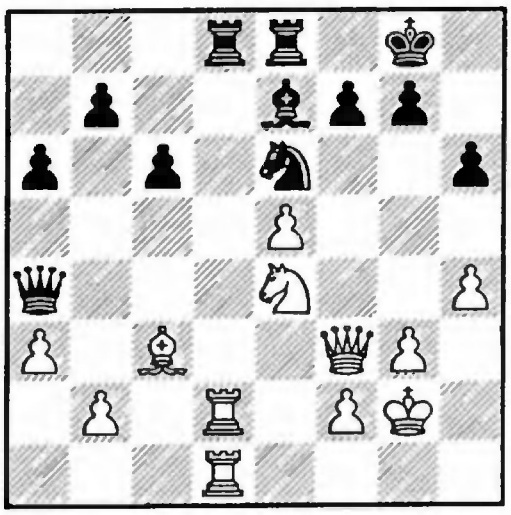
22... h5!? with idea to play ♘g4 and ♗f6.

23.e5!

Gaining more space

23... ♘f8 24.♘e4 ♘e6 25.♗c3 ♕a4 26.♖cd2

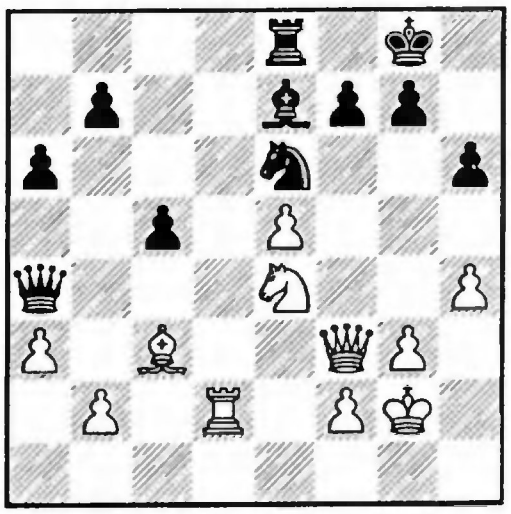
Black lost too much time with a manoeuvre of the knight and White takes the d file.



26... ♖xd2?!

26... c5 directly this move was better 27.♖xd8 ♖xd8 28.♘d6 ♗xd6 29.♖xd6 ♖b8 Black can hold on

27.♖xd2 c5



28.b3! ♕xb3?!

28... ♕xa3 29.♖d7 ♕xb3 30.♖xb7 ♕a4 31.♘d6 ♘d8 32.♘xe8 ♘xb7 33.♘xg7 ♘d8 34.♘f5 ♗f8 35.♗d2+−; 28... ♕c6□ 29.♘d6 ♖b8± and if White takes on c6, weakness of the b3 pawn

fully compensates own weakness on queens side.

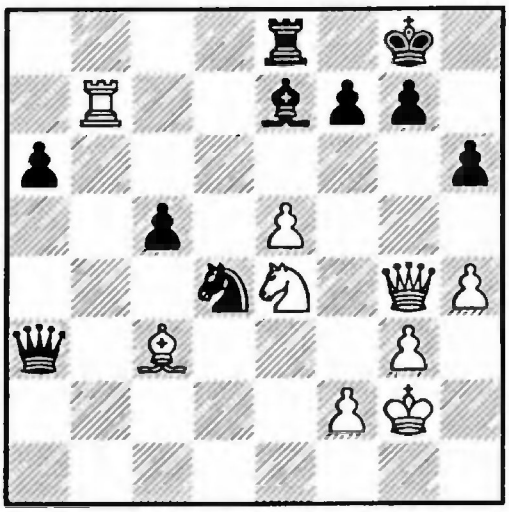
29.♖b2 ♕xa3

29... ♕c4; 29... ♕d5?? 30.♘f6++−

30.♖xb7 ♘d4

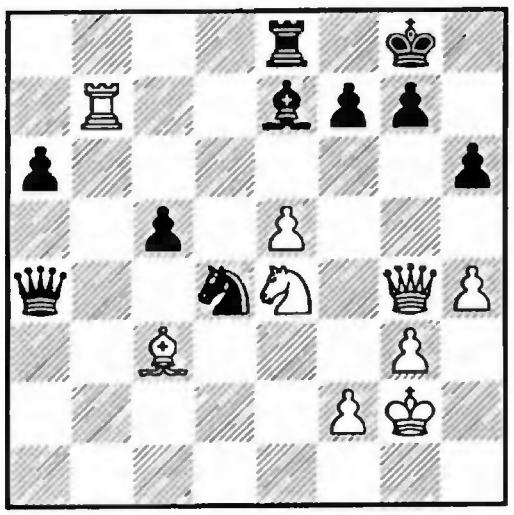
30... ♘d8 31.e6! ♕a2 (31... fxe6 32.♕h5 ♕a4 33.♕e5+−; 31... ♘xe6 32.♘d6! ♘d8 33.♘xe8 ♘xb7 34.♕xb7 ♕xc3 35.♕xe7+−) 32.♖xe7 ♖xe7 33.♘f6+ gxf6 34.♕xf6 ♕d5+ 35.♔g1 fxe6 36.♕xe7 e5 37.♗xe5 ♘f7 38.♗c3±

31.♕g4



31... ♕a4?

31... ♘e6□ 32.♕d1! (32.♘f6+ ♗xf6 33.exf6 ♕xc3 34.♖e7 ♖d8 35.♖xe6 g6 36.♖xa6; 32.♖b6 ♗d8 33.♘f6+ ♔f8 34.♘xe8 ♗xb6 35.♘d6 ♕xc3 36.♕a4 ♘c7 37.♕d7 ♔g8 38.♕xf7+ ♔h7 39.♕f5+=; 32.♕f5 ♕a2 33.♘d6 ♘d4 34.♗xd4 ♕d5+ 35.♕f3 ♕xf3+ 36.♔xf3 ♗xd6 37.exd6 cxd4=) 32... ♖d8 33.♕e2 ♔f8 34.♕c2 c4 35.♘d6 g6 36.♕d2+− is the idea of the nice Queen's triangle.



32.♖xe7! ♖xe7 33.♘f6+

Nice game of Navara!

1-0 *[B.Jobava]*

(26) [D37]

□ **Grischuk,A (2747)**

■ **Gelfand,B (2733)**

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (3.5), 24.05.2011

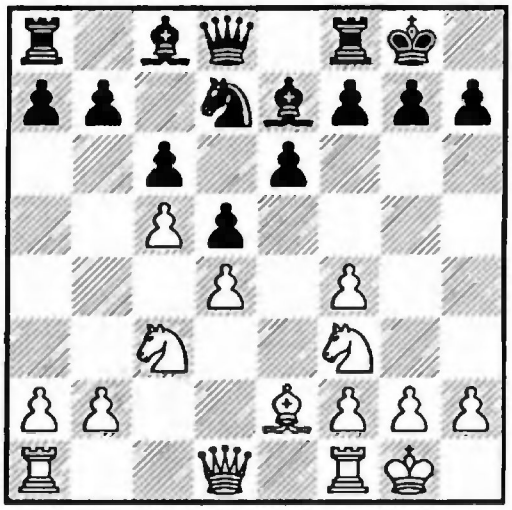
The russian player found a novelty on move 8 with ♗e2 in the queen's gambit. I can't understand the difference with 8.♗d3, so i think black should be ok if they play the classic plan with b6,a5 and ♗a6. Gelfand decided to play with 10... f6 and he went wrong with a very passive position. But he found the beautiful 22... e5 and managed to draw.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♗e7 5.♗f4 0-0 6.e3 ♘bd7 7.c5 ♘h5 8.♗e2N

Interesting novelty, but what's the difference with 8.♗d3? I cannot say, maybe it was some kind of bluff by Grischuk...

8.♗d3 ♘xf4 9.exf4 b6 10.b4 a5 11.a3 c6 12.0-0 ♕c7 13.g3 ♗a6= Radjabov and Kramnik played this game in Candidates matchs in quarter final.

8... c6 9.0-0 ♘xf4 10.exf4



10... f6!?

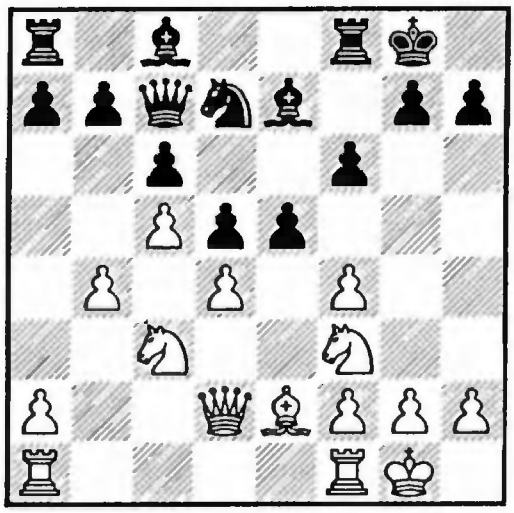
This move is risky, the only prospect for Black is to play very fast e6–e5 otherwise it will be passive.

10... b6 difficult to understand why Gelfand didn't play this line? 11.b4 a5 12.a3 ♕c7 13.♕d2 ♗a6=

11.b4 ♕c7 12.♕d2 ♖f7?

This move is hard to understand because Gelfand had a clear plan: play e5. And after 12.♕d2 it was the moment, it's the only chance for Black to have some play during this game. Because after 12... ♖f7, black's position is passive and for the next 20 moves, Gelfand will have to move his pieces in a little space.

12... e5



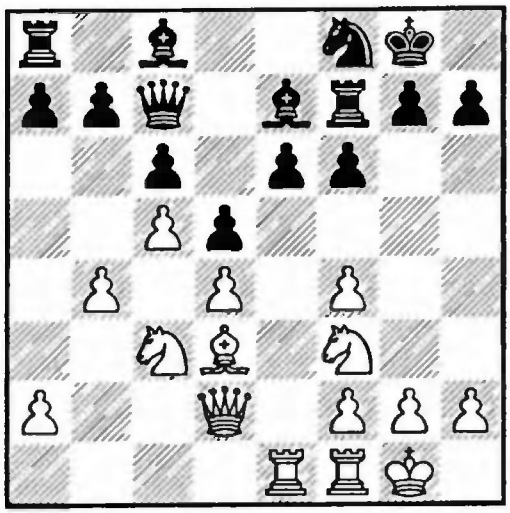
a) 13.♖fe1 ♔h8 14.♗f1 a5 (14... e4? 15.♘xe4! dxe4 16.♖xe4 ♗d8 17.♖ae1 ♘b8 18.d5±) 15.b5 e4 16.♕e3 (16.♘xe4 dxe4 17.♖xe4 ♘xc5 18.dxc5 ♗xc5 19.♖c1 cxb5 20.♗xb5 b6∓) 16... ♖e8 17.♘d2 ♘f8 18.♘a4 ♗e6 19.♘b6 ♖ab8∞ Maybe white is standing slighty better, but I'am not sure. Howver, it's clearly more comfortable to play this position if we look at the game.

b) 13.♖ae1 ♔h8 14.♗d3 a5 (14... e4? 15.♘xe4 dxe4 16.♖xe4 ♗d8 17.♖fe1±) 15.b5 e4 16.♘xe4 dxe4 17.♖xe4 ♘xc5 18.dxc5 cxb5 19.♘d4 ♗xc5 20.♘xb5 ♕f7 21.♕c2 b6 22.♖ee1∞;

c) 13.fxe5 fxe5 14.dxe5 ♘xe5 15.♘d4 a5 16.a3 ♗f6∓;

13.♖ae1 ♘f8 14.♗d3±

Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs



It's not so easy to find a good plan for White, because the black'position is solid. But I think that kind of position is very pleasant to play, you have time to make many manoeuvres and your opponent will suffer a lot.

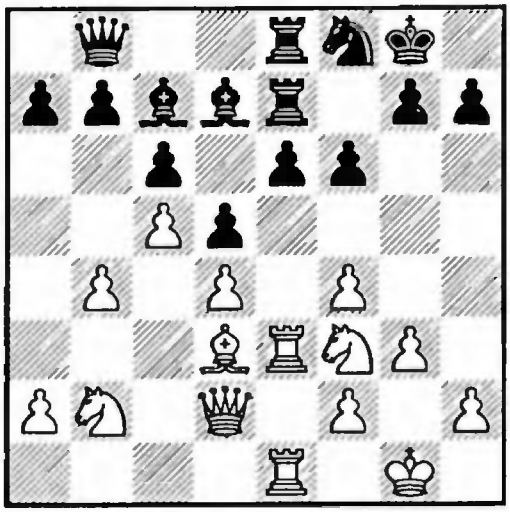
14... ♗d7 15.g3 ♖e8 16.♖e3 ♗d8

Now Black's plan is obvious, Gelfand wants to play ♕b8, ♗c7, ♖fe7 and if possible the important e5!

17.♖fe1 ♕b8 18.♘a4

Grischuk is moving the knight, he wants to put his queen in c3 to control the "e5" square.

18... ♗c7 19.♘b2 ♖fe7



20.♕c3

So e5 is attacking 6 times by white and 5 times by black. So it's impossible for Black to break the center with e5.

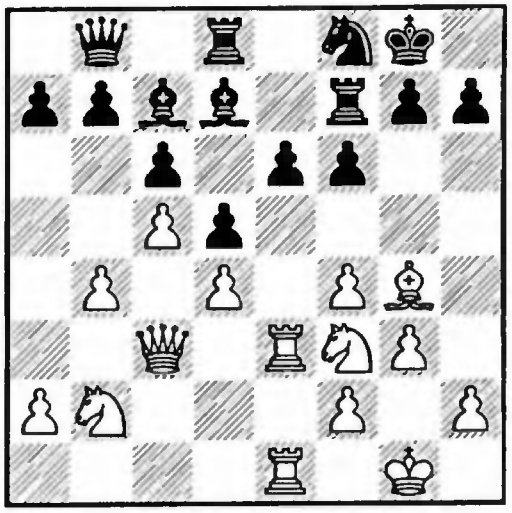
20... ♖d8 21.♗f5?!

21.a4 ♗e8 22.♗f1 ♗g6 23.♘h4 ♗f7 24.♘d3 ♖de8 25.a5 And white is still dominating the board.

21... ♖f7

threatening to be a trick... If White plays ♗g4 or ♗h3, there is e5!

22.♗g4?



Aie, Grischuk made a big blunder... He just didn't see the tactical move e5... Of course, Grischuk has to come back in c2 to keep the advantage.

22... e5!=

After a difficult game, Gelfand didn't miss his chance.

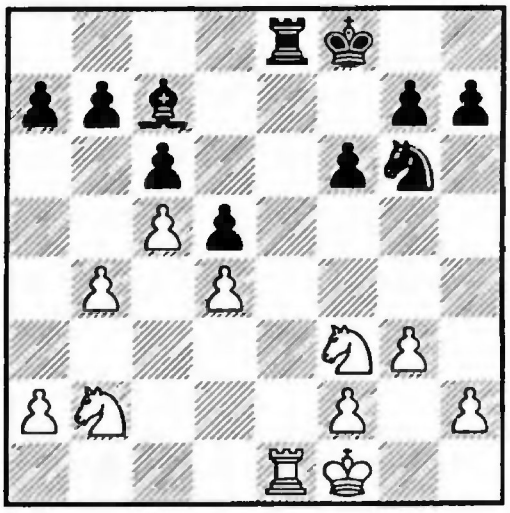
23.♗xd7 exf4

And this is the idea! Now this little pawn on f4 is attacking the Rook on e3 ;

24.♗e8

24.gxf4 ♖fxd7 25.f5 g6 26.♕d3 ♖g7∓

24... fxe3 25.♕xe3 ♘g6 26.♗xf7+ ♔xf7 27.♕e6+ ♔f8 28.♕h3 ♕c8 29.♕xc8 ♖xc8 30.♔f1 ♖e8



31.♖b1

Grischuk doesn't want to exchange the rooks, he's trying some action on the queenside. But Gelfand has just to put his king in d7 and it will be draw.

31... ♔e7 32.♘d3 a6 33.a4 ♔d7 34.b5 axb5 35.axb5 cxb5 36.♖xb5 ♖b8 37.♘b4 ♘e7 38.♘e1 ♘c6 39.♘xc6 ½-½ *[S.Maze]*

(27) [D37]

☐ **Grischuk,A (2747)**

■ **Gelfand,B (2733)**

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (3.3), 21.05.2011

In the Queen's gambit, Grischuk plays an old and rare line with 7.♕b3 followed by 9.g3. But Gelfand was ready, and found a fantastic novelty with 9... b5 which equalise immediatly.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♗e7 5.♗g5

Sasha Grischuk is the first to deviate from the previous game where he played 5.♗f4.

5... h6 6.♗xf6

Interesting choice by Grischuk, he doesn't want to go in line with 6.♗h4 where Black will play some idea with ♘e4 (Lasker Variation) and exchange a lot of material. In my opinion, the preparation of the Russian player was focused on some old lines where the theory is not so involved.

6... ♗xf6 7.♕b3

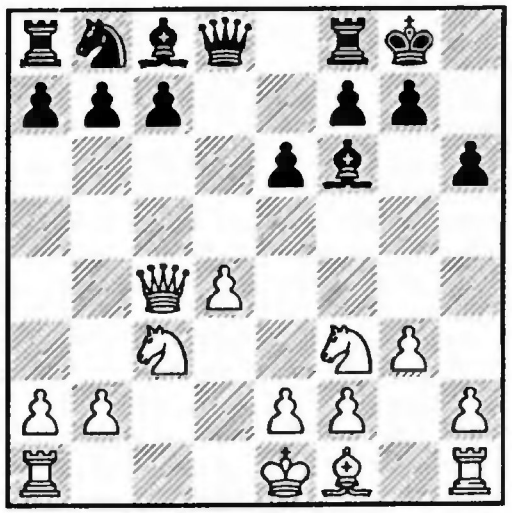
A rare line.

7.e3 Is more common but very quiet for both sides. 7... 0-0 8.♖c1 c6 9.♗d3 ♘d7 10.0-0∞

7... dxc4

7... c6 8.0-0-0!? Maybe Grischuk was expecting 7... c6, and his idea was to play this very interesting 0–0–0. We will never know... (8.e3 0-0 9.♖d1∞)

8.♕xc4 0-0 9.g3



This move is almost a novelty, played just once in 1984. In my opinion, Gri-

schuk was happy after the beginning of this game and didn't imagine that Gelfand will play in the next move one of the best novelties of the year...

9... b5N

What a move! And Boris played it immediatly! It's funny, because Grischuk played a very rare line with ♕b3 and g3 with the idea to play a game without theory. And finally, Gelfand, with a a powerful homepreparation caught his opponent in the opening.

9... ♘d7 10.♗g2 e5 11.d5 ♘b6 12.♕b3 ♗f5 13.♘d2 ♖b8 14.0-0∞ Ulhmann (2505)–Hjartarson (2415) 1984

10.♕xb5

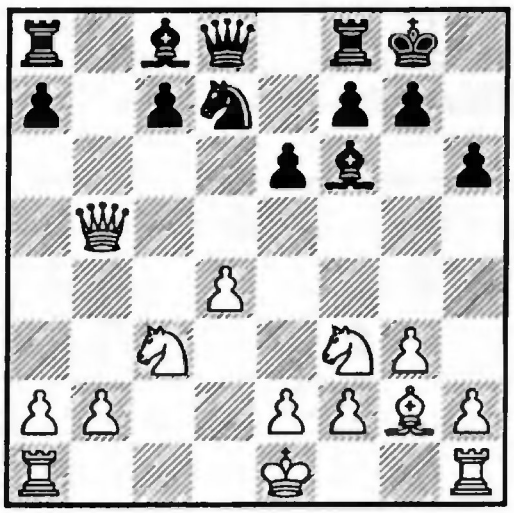
The best move by far. Other moves are giving a good initiative to the Black.

10.♘xb5 ♗a6 11.♕a4 c5 12.♗g2 ♕b6 13.♘a3 cxd4 14.♘d2 (14.♘xd4 ♗xd4 15.♗xa8 ♘d7 16.0-0 ♗xe2 17.♕xd7 ♖xa8∓; 14.♖c1 d3 15.0-0 dxe2 16.♖fe1 ♗b7) 14... ♗b7 15.♘e4 ♗e7 16.♘c4 ♕c7 17.0-0 ♗d5 18.♖ac1 ♘c6 19.♘ed2 ♗xg2 20.♔xg2 ♖fd8 And this position looks equal to me.;

10.♕b3 c5 11.dxc5 ♕a5 12.♗g2 ♗b7 13.0-0 b4∓; 10.♕d3 ♘c6! 11.e3 (11.♖d1 ♗b7 12.e4 a6 13.♗g2 ♕d7 14.0-0 ♖fd8 15.e5 ♗e7 16.♕e3 ♘b4∓) 11... ♗b7 12.♗g2 ♘e5 13.♘xe5 (13.♕e2 ♘xf3+ 14.♗xf3 ♗xf3 15.♕xf3 c5 16.♘e4 cxd4 17.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 18.♕xf6 gxf6 19.exd4 ♖ac8∓) 13... ♗xg2 14.♖g1 ♗xe5 15.♖xg2 c5 16.♕xb5 cxd4 17.♕xe5 dxc3 18.f3 ♖c8∞

10... ♘d7 11.♗g2

11.0-0-0?! very risky! 11... ♖b8 12.♕a5 ♗b7 13.♗g2 ♕c8 14.♖he1 c5 with a strong attack for Black.



11... c5

11... ♖b8 12.♕a4 ♖xb2 13.0-0 c5 14.♖ab1 ♕b6=

12.0-0

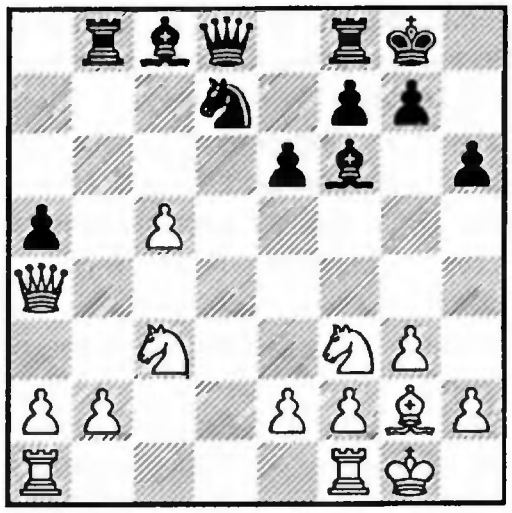
12.dxc5 ♖b8 13.♕a4 ♖xb2 14.♘e4 ♗b7 (14... ♗e7 15.♕a3 ♖b8 16.0-0 ♗b7 17.♘d6 ♗d5 18.e4 ♘xc5 19.exd5 ♗xd6 20.♖ad1 exd5 21.♖xd5 ♕b6=) 15.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 16.♖c1 ♖c8 17.0-0 ♘xc5 18.♕xa7 ♖xe2 19.♖xc5 ♖xc5 20.♕xc5 ♗xf3 21.♗xf3 ♕xf3=

12... ♖b8 13.♕a4 a5

13... ♖xb2 14.♖ab1 ♕b6 15.e3 cxd4 16.♘xd4 ♘e5 17.♖xb2 ♕xb2 18.♘e4 ♗d8 19.♘d6 ♗b6 20.♖d1 ♘g4 21.♖f1 ♘e5 22.♖d1=

14.dxc5

www.chess-evolution.com



14.dxc5 ♘xc5 15.♕c2 ♕b6 16.♖ab1 ♗a6 17.♖fd1 ♖fc8 and Gelfand has enough compensation for the pawn. The 2 bishops are shining on the board! Even I think Black has no risks to continue this game.;
14.♘e4 cxd4 15.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 16.♕xd4 ♗a6 17.♕e5 ♘g4 18.♕c3 ♗xe2 19.♖fc1 ♕b6 20.♕e1=
½-½ *[S.Maze]*

(28) [D37]

☐ **Grischuk,A (2747)**
■ **Gelfand,B (2733)**

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (3.1), 19.05.2011

In a queen's gambit with 5.♗f4, Grischuk played an interesting line with 6. ♖c1. He managed to have a good endgame but Gelfand, as usual, showed his great sense of the defense.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♗e7 5.♗f4

So we have one more queen's gambit in the Candidates Matchs.

5... 0-0 6.♖c1

Grischuk played 4 times in this tournament 6.e3. His seconds prepare for sure something interesting with this rare move 6.♖c1.

6... c5

The most logical answer.
6... dxc4 was tried in the game Jakovenko - Ghaem Magami 2009 7.e4 c5 8.♗xc4 cxd4 9.♘xd4 a6 10.e5 ♘d5 11.♘xd5 exd5 12.♗b3±

7.dxc5 ♗xc5 8.e3 ♘c6

The game is coming back in one of the main lines.

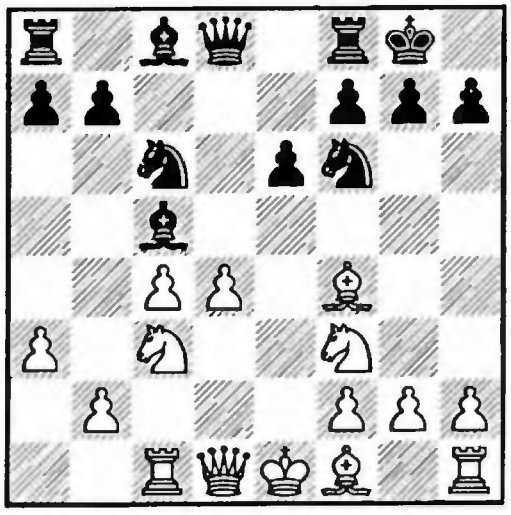
9.a3

a playable alternative is also 9.cxd5

9... d4

9... a6 10.b4 ♗d6 (10... ♗a7 11.c5 h6 12.♗e2∞ Gelfand(2691)-Topalov(2700) 1999) 11.♗g5 a5 12.b5 ♘e7 13.♗xf6 gxf6 14.a4 ♗b4∓ Nielsen(2638)-Kasparov(2831) 2004

10.exd4



Grischuk's second Etienne Bacrot played 10.♘xd4 in his game against Tregubov. 10.♘xd4 ♘xd4 11.b4 ♗b6

12.c5 e5 13.♗xe5 ♘c6 14.♗xf6 ♕xf6 15.cxb6 axb6 16.♘d5±

10... ♘xd4 11.b4 ♘xf3+

11... e5 12.♘xe5 ♖e8 13.♗e2 ♘xe2 14.♕xd8 ♖xd8 15.♔xe2 ♘h5 16.♗e3±

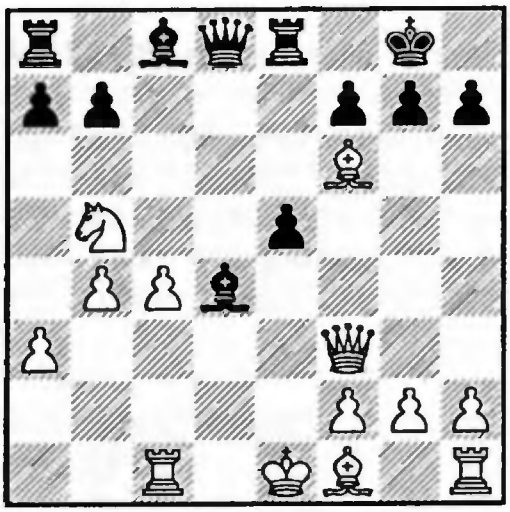
12.♕xf3 ♗d4 13.♘b5

13.♗e2?! e5 14.♗g5 h6 15.♗xf6 ♕xf6 16.♕xf6 gxf6 17.♘b5 ♖d8 18.c5 ♗f5=

13... e5 14.♗g5 ♖e8N

14... e4 15.♕g3 h6 16.♖d1 hxg5 17.♖xd4 ♗d7 18.♗e2 a5 19.0-0± Nielsen(2628)– Beliavsky(2667) 2004

15.♗xf6



15... e4

15... ♕xf6 16.♕xf6 gxf6 17.♘xd4 exd4+ 18.♔d2 and white will obtain a very nice endgame; 15... gxf6 16.c5 f5 17.♗c4 ♗e6 18.0-0±

16.♗xd8

16.♕f4? ♗xf6 17.♖d1 ♕e7 18.♗e2 ♗d7 19.0-0 ♗xb5 20.cxb5 ♖ac8∓

16... exf3+ 17.♔d2 ♖xd8 18.♘xd4 ♖xd4+

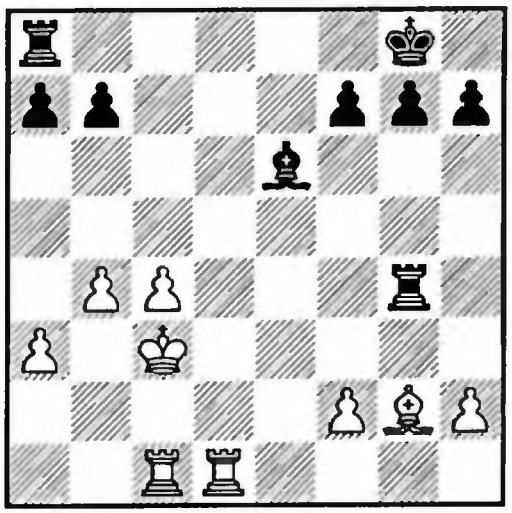
I think that Grischuk's preparation was including this line. Now it's a key moment for the Russian player. Two choices are possible ♔e3 or ♔c3. In both moves, white has an advantage in this endgame. In my opinion, I would prefer ♔e3 because the king would defend the pawn on f2, control the important square on f4 and also he would not be disturbing the Rook on c1.

19.♔c3

Finnaly he choosed ♔c3, not the best for me...

19.♔e3 fxg2 (19... ♖d6 20.♔xf3 ♖f6+ 21.♔e3 ♗d7 22.f3 ♖d6 23.c5 ♖e8+ 24.♔f2 ♖d2+ 25.♔g3 ♖e6 26.h4 a6 27.h5 ♖e5 28.♖h4±) 20.♗xg2 ♖h4 21.♖hd1 ♗e6 22.♖d4 ♖xd4 (22... ♖xh2 23.♗xb7 ♖e8 24.♖e4 f5 25.♖e5 ♔f7 26.f4 ♖h3+ 27.♔d4±) 23.♔xd4 ♖d8+ 24.♔e3 ♗c8 25.c5 ♔f8 26.b5 ♔e7 27.♖c4±

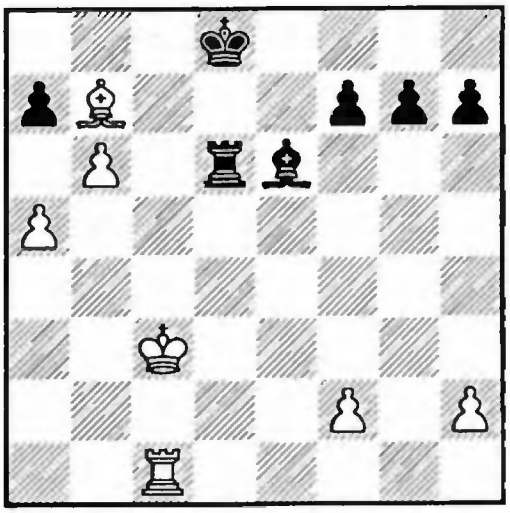
19... fxg2 20.♗xg2 ♖g4 21.♖hd1 ♗e6



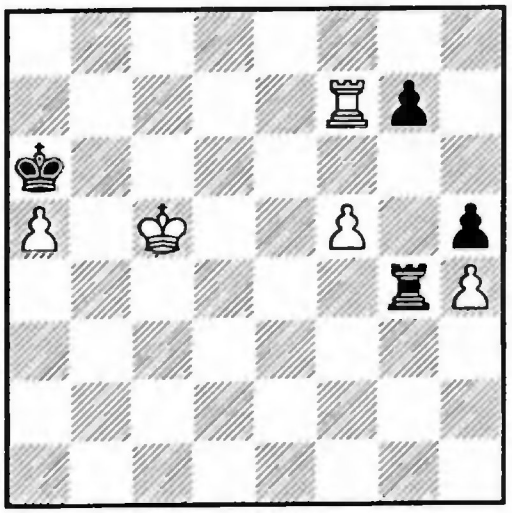
22.♗xb7?

22.♗d5!? ♖h4 23.♖d4 ♖h3+ 24.♖d3 ♖xd3+ 25.♔xd3 ♖d8 26.♔e4 ♗c8 27.b5 g6 28.c5 ♔g7 White has still a slighty advantage. White has still a slighty advantage.

22... ♖xc4+ 23.♔b2 ♖xc1 24.♖xc1
24.♔xc1 Was better, it's important to keep a rook on d1 to control the "d" file. 24... ♖b8 25.♗c6 ♔f8 26.♖d4 ♖c8 27.b5 ♔e7 28.♔d2 ♖d8 29.♖xd8 ♔xd8 30.♔c3 ♔c7 31.♔b4 ♔b6 32.♗e4=
24... ♖d8=
Black has equalised now. Gelfand has to be careful on the queen side but it looks not so difficult for Black to hold this position.
25.♔c3 ♔f8 26.b5 ♔e7 27.a4 ♖d6 28.a5 ♔d8 29.b6



The last trick!
29... ♗c8
29... axb6?? 30.a6 ♔c7 31.♖a1 ♖d8 32.♗g2 ♗c8 33.♔c4+−
30.♗xc8 ♔xc8
30... ♖c6+? 31.♔d2 ♖xc1 32.♗b7 axb6 33.♔xc1 bxa5 34.♔b2+−
31.♔b4+ ♔b8 32.bxa7+ ♔a8 33.♖c8+ ♔xa7 34.♖c7+ ♔a6 35.♖xf7 ♖g6?
Not the best move to draw the position.
35... g5 36.♖xh7 ♖f6 37.♖g7 ♖f4+ 38.♔b3 ♖xf2 39.♖xg5 ♖xh2=
36.h3 ♖g2 37.f4 ♖g3 38.f5 h5 39.h4 ♖g4+ 40.♔c5



40... ♖xh4 41.♖xg7 ♖f4 42.♖g6+ ♔xa5 43.♖g5 h4 44.♖h5 h3 45.♔d6 h2 46.f6+ ♔b6 47.♔e6 ♖f2 48.f7 ♖e2+ 49.♔f6 ½-½ *[S.Maze]*

(29) [D38]

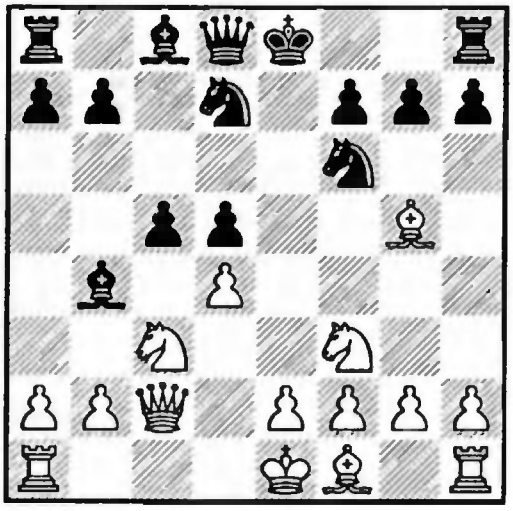
☐ **Bacrot,E (2705)**
■ **Peralta,Fe (2608)**

French League Mulhouse FRA (10), 04.06.2011

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 ♗b4
No Queen's Gambit anymore! After Kazan and numerous draws, 4... ♗e7 is back on track but my opponent sticks to his repertoire.
5.cxd5 exd5 6.♗g5
My preparation for this game was simple: to follow Topalov's steps in Monaco!
6... ♘bd7
If 6... h6 7.♗h4 c5 8.e3 g5 (8... c4!?) 9.♗g3 c4 10.♗e2 ♘e4 11.♖c1 ♕a5

12.♘e5! I have analysed in depth this very interesting exchange sacrifice for the May issue of Chess Evolution. 12... ♘c6 13.0-0 ♗xc3 14.bxc3 ♘xc3 15.♖xc3! ♕xc3 16.♗h5 0-0 17.♕f3 ♘d8 18.♕f6 ♕c2 19.♘g4 ♗xg4 20.♗e5 ♕h7 21.♗xg4 ♘e6 Up to now, this is Topalov–Aronian (Monte Carlo 2011, blind), but Black missed 22.♗f5! ♕g7 23.♕e7 ♖fe8 24.♕xb7 ♕f8 25.♕xd5 with a clear advantage.

7.♕c2 c5



8.g3!?

This recent move came as a surprise for my opponent. During the 2009 World Cup, I had tested it vs Ponomariov 8.a3 ♗xc3+ 9.♕xc3 h6 10.♗xf6 ♕xf6 11.♕e3+!? ♕e7 12.♕xe7+ ♔xe7 13.dxc5 ♘xc5 14.♖c1 ♘e6! 15.e3 ♖d8 16.♔d2 ♗d7 17.♗d3 ♖ac8 and White's plus is too slim to win the ending.;
8.dxc5 is the "old" variation that Carlsen took on in Bazna. 8... h6 9.♗d2 0-0 10.e3 ♗xc5 11.♖c1!?N ♕e7 12.♗e2 a6 13.♕d3!? ♘b6 14.0-0 ♗e6∞ seems more natural than the text. The idea is to bring a Knight at c4.(14... ♗g4 15.♘d4 ♗d7 16.♗f3 with a minimal advantage to White, Carlsen–Ivanchuk 2011)

8... h6

8... cxd4 is the alternative.

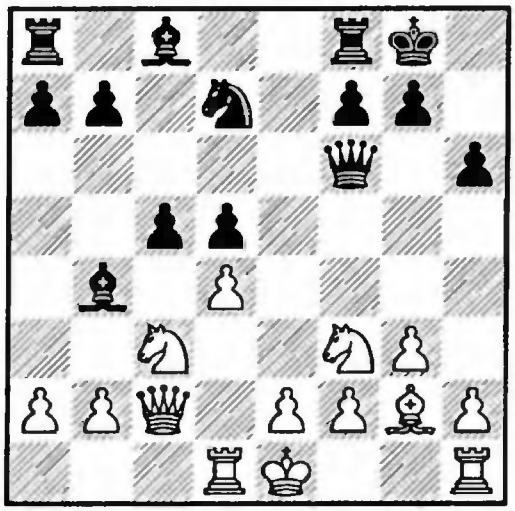
9.♗xf6 ♕xf6!

Bad luck. I am already out of book!
9... ♘xf6 10.♗g2 0-0 11.0-0 ♕e7 12.dxc5 ♗xc5 13.♖ad1 ♖d8 14.♘d4 with an enviable advantage due to the isolated pawn, Topalov–Kramnik, Monte Carlo 2011.

10.♖d1

Looks more natural than 10. a3.

10... 0-0 11.♗g2



11... ♘b6!

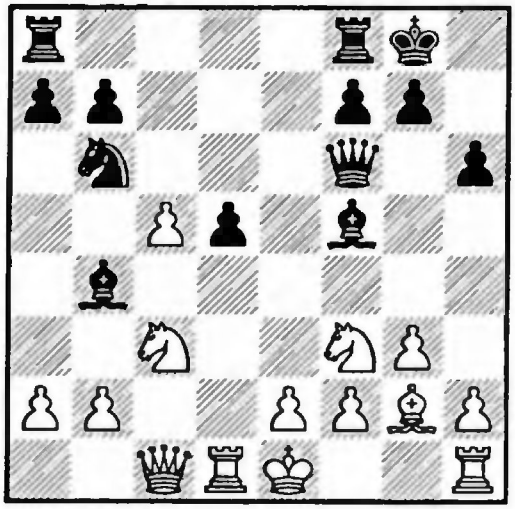
11... c4 does not equalize completely, for example 12.0-0 ♗xc3 (12... ♘b6 13.♘e5 ♗f5 14.e4! dxe4 15.♗xe4 ♗xc3 16.bxc3 ♗xe4 17.♕xe4 ♕e7 18.♕f3 with an annoying pressure by White.) 13.bxc3 ♖e8 and Blacks tries to prevent the "e4" breakthrough. 14.♖fe1 (14.e4 ♖xe4 15.♘h4 (15.♘d2 ♖e7 16.♗xd5 ♘b6∞) 15... ♖xh4 16.gxh4

♕d6 followed by Nf6 and Be6 with good compensation for the exchange.) 14... ♕c6 15.e4! ♖xe4 16.♖xe4 dxe4 17.♘d2 f5 18.f3 exf3 19.♘xf3 Thanks to their lead in development, White should be able to regain the sacrified pawn and keep a slight plus.

12.dxc5

Played after a long thought. I had to choose between numeros equal lines. 12.0-0 ♗f5 13.e4 ♗xc3 (13... ♗g4!?) 14.exf5 ♗xd4 15.♘xd4 cxd4 looks OK for Black.

12... ♗f5 13.♕c1



13.♕b3 ♗xc5 14.0-0 ♖ad8∞

13... ♘a4

13... ♗xc5 is a tactical mistake. 14.♘xd5! ♘xd5 15.♕xc5 ♖ac8 16.♕d4± (16.♕xd5 ♖fd8=)

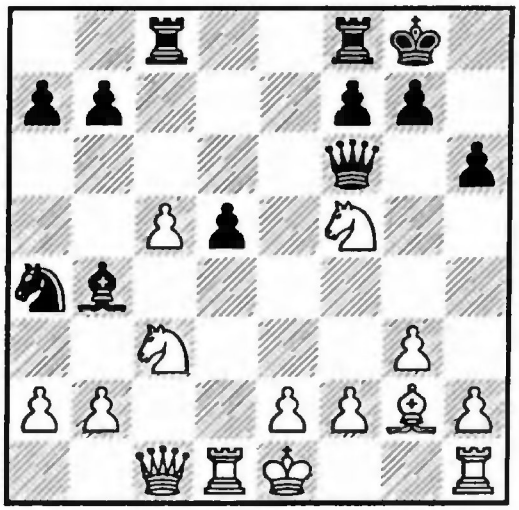
14.♘d4

14.♖d4 ♘xc3 15.bxc3 ♗xc5 16.♖xd5 ♖ac8 17.0-0 ♗e6 18.♖d2 ♗b4∓

14... ♖ac8

Not precise and not the best. After 14... ♗e4!, it's a likely draw. 14... ♗e4 15.0-0 ♗xc3 16.bxc3 ♘xc5 17.c4 ♗xg2 18.♔xg2 ♖fd8=

15.♘xf5



15... ♕xf5

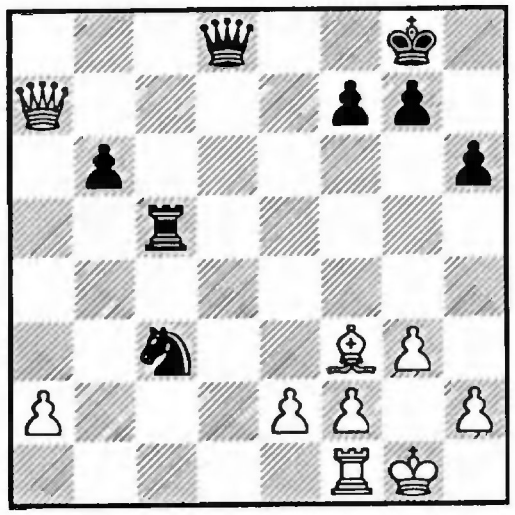
15... ♘xb2 fails because of 16.0-0 ♘xd1 17.♘xd5! and he cannot bring the Knight "f5" home because of the Knigh fork on en "e7"... with check.

16.♖xd5 ♕f6 17.0-0 ♗xc3 18.bxc3 ♘xc3 19.♖d2 ♖xc5

19... ♖fe8 is less precise: 20.♗f3 ♖xc5 21.♕a3 ♕b6 22.♔g2 ♕a5 23.♕xa5 ♖xa5 24.♖c1 ♖xa2 25.♖d7 ♖a3 26.♖xb7 And the ending is not so easy to hold.

20.♕a3 b6 21.♕xa7 ♖d8 22.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 23.♗f3

Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs



After this series of more or less forced moves, White won a pawn but the rook "f1" will meet some activation problems all the more Black pieces are on good squares.

23... ♖a5?

My opponent jumps on the material. That's his mistake. He should have improved is king's position with 23... g6! 24.♕b7 ♔g7 25.♔g2 h5 26.h4 Over the board, I thought I had some practical chances. Just a hint for the initiated: in this very position, my favorite engine suggests the enigmatic 26... ♖c4. His evaluation is 0.00, depth 36!! 26... ♖c4

24.♕b7 ♖xa2

24... ♖c5 is much better but who can blame Black? This move does not come to mind over the board.

25.♖c1 ♖a3 26.♕c6!+-

White's coordination dominates the board. Black are defenseless.

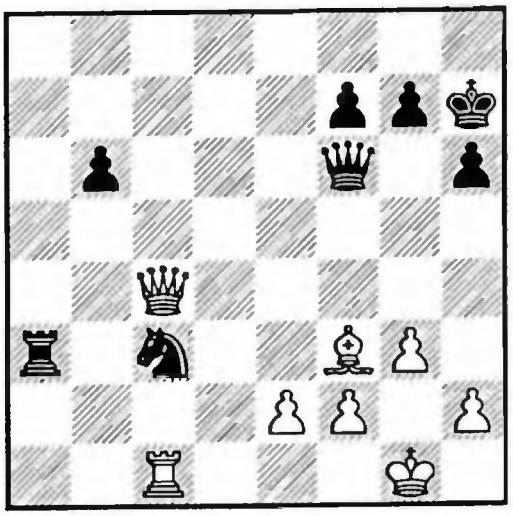
26... ♕f6

26... ♘a4 27.♕c8 ♕xc8 28.♖xc8+ ♔h7 29.♗e4+ g6 30.♖c7 and Black loses the "f" pawn.

27.♕c8+

This useful intermediary check pulls the king far from the "f7" pawn. If 27.♕c4 ♕e5! with equality. 28.♕b4 ♕c5

27... ♔h7 28.♕c4



There is nothing against ♕c4-b4.

28... ♘a4 29.♕e4+ ♕g6 30.♕b4 ♖a2 31.♕b3 1-0 *[E. Bacrot]*

(30) [D38]

□ Williams,Simon Kim (2520)

■ Eljanov,P (2712)

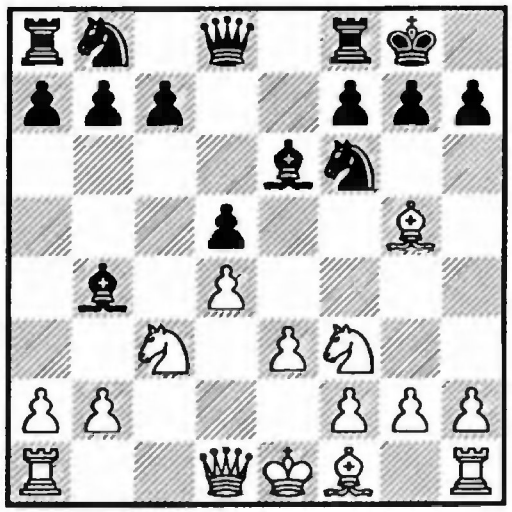
TCh-FRA Top 12 2011 Mulhouse FRA (3.1), 28.05.2011

Eljanov played a very rare line of the Ragozin variation with 6... 0-0 and then 7... ♗e6. Williams's novelty, 8.♘e5 is very interesting. I think 8... c5 was not the best but even after 8... ♘bd7 only white can claim a slight advantage.

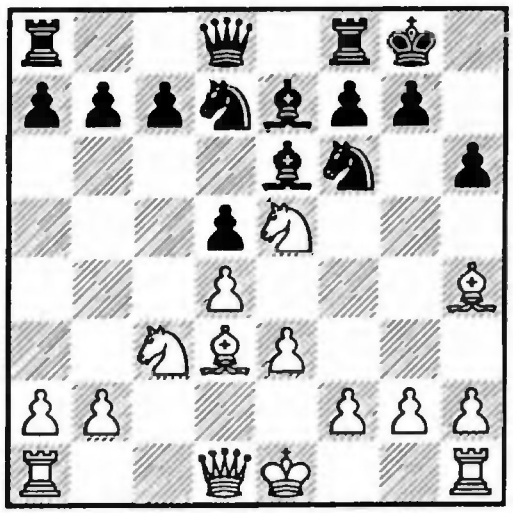
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♗b4 5.cxd5 exd5

Eljanov played the ragozine defence,

an opening popular at the high level.
6.♗g5 0-0 7.e3 ♗e6

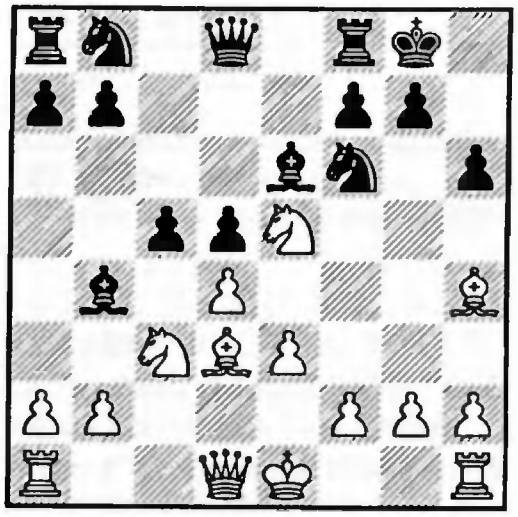


First important thing in the game, the Ukranian player is trying to avoid the main lines, and choses this rare move 7.♗e6 for this game.
7... c5 is the main move.
8.♘e5!N
And there is the Novelty! A logical move to disturb black's development.
8.♗d3 ♘bd7 9.0-0 c5 10.dxc5 ♗xc3 11.bxc3 ♘xc5 12.♗c2 ♘ce4 13.♕d4 ♕c7 14.♖fc1 ♘xg5 15.♘xg5 h6= Landa,K (2641)–Bartel,M (2613)/ France 2008/
8... c5?!
I don't like this move. For black, after the novelty, the plan is simple, exchange the strong Knight on e5. It's very important to do that before playing c5.
⌓8... ♘bd7 Simple move and now black has no problem. 9.♗d3 (9.f4? is too optimistic. 9... c5 10.♗d3 cxd4 11.exd4 ♕b6⇄; 9.♘xd7 ♗xd7 10.♕b3 a5 11.a3 ♗xc3+ 12.♕xc3 ♗f5 13.♗e2 c6 14.♕b3 h6 15.♗f4 ♕e7=) 9... h6 10.♗h4 ♗e7! With this move, black won't have any problems with the pin.

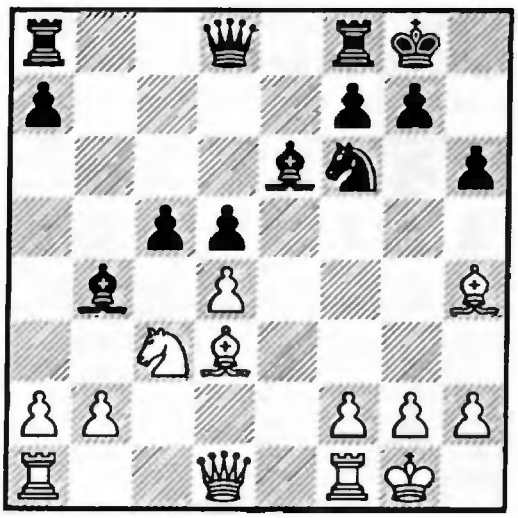


a) 11.♘xd7 ♕xd7 (11... ♘xd7 12.♗xe7 ♕xe7 13.0-0 c6 (13... c5 14.dxc5 ♕xc5 15.♖c1 ♘e5 16.♗e2 ♖ac8 17.♘b5 ♘c4 18.♘d4 ♕e7 19.b3 ♘d6 20.♗d3± With a super strong knight on d4, White is slighty better. I really don't like to play this kind of position with Black, you are just playing towards two possible outcomes, draw or loss, and you will suffer for a long time!) 14.♖b1 with a small plus for White.) 12.0-0 c6 13.♕c2 (13.♖c1 ♗f5=) 13... ♘e8 14.♗xe7 (14.♗g3 ♘d6 15.♘a4 b6 16.♖ac1 ♖ac8 17.♘c3 ♗f5=) 14... ♕xe7 15.♘a4 White position is slighty better but due to the lack of weakness black position is very solid.
b) 11.♗c2 ♘xe5 12.dxe5 ♘g4 13.♕d3 g6 14.♗g3 ♗h4∞ And Black is fine.;
c) 11.h3 ♘xe5 12.dxe5 ♘d7 13.♗g3 ♘c5 14.♗c2 c6 15.0-0 ♕b6 16.♖b1 ♘e4= and Black equalizes because the pawn a2 is hanging if White takes

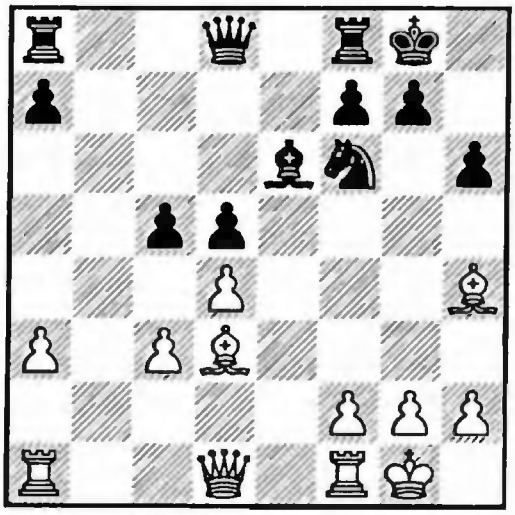
everything on e4.;
d) 11.0-0 ♘xe5 12.dxe5 ♘g4 13.♗xe7 (13.♗g3 ♗h4! 14.♕f3 ♕g5! 15.♗f4 (15.♘xd5 ♗xd5 16.♕xd5 ♗xg3 17.hxg3 ♕h5 18.♖fd1 ♖fe8↑ with a strong initiative for Black) 15... ♘xe5 16.♕e2 ♕f6∞) 13... ♕xe7 14.♗e2 ♘xe5 15.♘xd5 ♗xd5 16.♕xd5 c6= with a completely equal position.;
9.♗d3 h6 10.♗h4



10... ♘c6
10... ♘bd7 11.0-0 cxd4 (11... c4 12.♗b1 g5 (12... ♗xc3 13.bxc3 ♕a5? 14.♕c2 g6 15.♘xg6!+−) 13.♗g3 ♘xe5 14.♗xe5 ♘g4 15.♗g3 f5 16.h3 ♘f6 17.♗e5± and the Black king is weak, and at some point White will open the lines with f3,e4.) 12.exd4 ♕a5 13.♘xd7 ♘xd7 14.f4 f5 15.♖e1 ♖ae8 16.♕b3± A symetrical position... but a good advantage for White, the bi-shop on e6 is weak and after ♖e2 and ♖ae1,it wil be a very pleasant game for White.
11.0-0 cxd4 12.♘xc6 bxc6 13.exd4 c5



If black doesn't play this move, white will be better after Na4 and Rc1 due to the weakness of the c6 pawn and the c5 square.
13... ♖b8 14.♘a4 ♗d6 15.b3±; 13... ♗e7 14.♘a4 ♖b8 15.♖c1 ♖b4 (15... ♘e4 16.♗xe7 ♕xe7 17.f3 ♘d6 18.♕d2 ♕f6 19.♖f2±) 16.♗b1±
14.a3 ♗xc3
14... ♗a5 15.dxc5 ♗xc3 16.bxc3 ♖c8 17.♕a4 ♖xc5 18. 18.♕ xa7 ♖xc3 19. ♕d4± The pair of bishop and the⊞a⊞ pawn will make the difference for the rest of the game .
15.bxc3



15... c4

15... cxd4 16.cxd4 g5 17.♗g3 ♘e4 18.♕f3 ♘xg3 19.fxg3±

16.♗c2±

The pair of bishop and the possibility to develop an initiative on the king's side gives to the white a good edge.

16... ♖b8 17.♖e1 ♖b6 18.♖e5 ♖e8

18... g5 19.♗g3 ♘e4 20.♕h5 ♘xg3 21.fxg3 ♕f6 22.♖f1 ♕g7 23.a4± Such a difficult position for Black. The bishop on e6 looks like a pawn, he has no perspective.

19.♗a4

19.♕d2 ♗c8 20.♖ae1 ♖be6 21.f3 ♗d7 22.g4±

19... ♖f8 20.♕c1

Nice move. Controling the "b2" square and preparing to come in f4 with the queen.

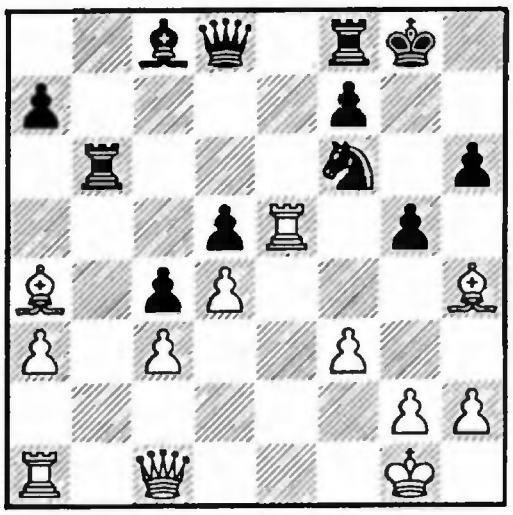
20... ♗c8 21.f3

The first strategic mistake from Simon Williams. He plays this move f3 too fast. He has to be careful of the black counterplay with g5 and with the Bishop on a4 is working. The key point is that with the bishop on c2, g5 is not possible.

⌓21.♗c2 ♖e6 (21... g5 22.♖xg5+ hxg5 23.♕xg5+ ♔h8 24.♕h6+ and mate!!) 22.♕d2 ♕d6 23.♖xe6 ♕xe6 24.♖e1 ♕d6 25.h3± ♖e5 and g4 coming with a great position!

21... ♕d6

Eljanov missed his chance to come back into the game. Now he will suffer and suffer... 21... g5!



of course! 22.♗f2 (22.♗xg5!? hxg5 23.♕xg5+ ♔h8 24.♖ae1 ♖e6 25.♗c2 ♘g8 Now black king is safe. 26.♕f4 ♖h6 27.♖e7 ♕d6 28.♕xd6 ♖xd6 29.♖xa7⩲; 22.♗c2 ♘h5 23.♗f2 f6∞) 22... ♘h5 23.♕d2 ♘f4 24.♗c2 ♖e8 25.♖ae1 ♖be6= Compared to the game, Black enjoys his position.

22.♗c2 ♗b7 23.g4!

All the white pieces are well placed, it's time to attack!

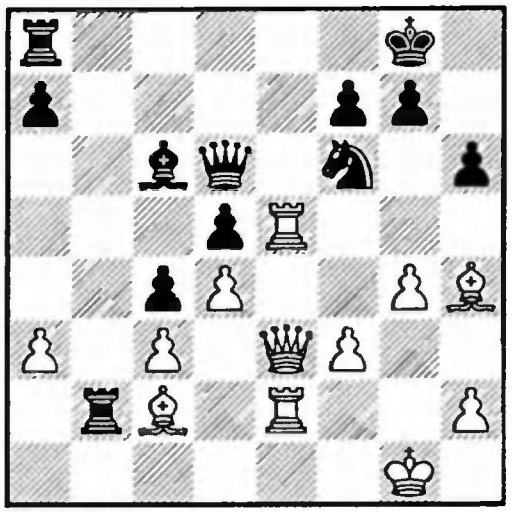
23... ♖a8

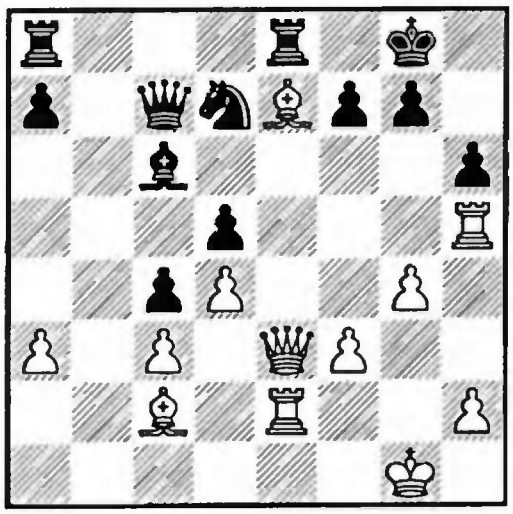
Poor Eljanov, being a chessplayer is hard work when you have to play these kinds of moves...

24.♕e3 ♗c6 25.♖e1

Step by step, the English player is preparing the final attack!

25... ♖b2 26.♖e2





26... ♖bb8
It's clear that black doesn't know what to do!
26... ♘d7 27.♖e7 ♘f8 28.♗g3 ♕f6 29.♗h7+ ♘xh7 30.♖xb2±
27.♕f4
⌓27.g5! hxg5 (27... ♘h7 28.gxh6 g6 29.♗xg6!+−) 28.♕xg5 ♗d7 29.♖g2+− was winning immediatly.
27... ♖f8 28.♕e3
28.g5 Still winning. 28... ♘h5 29.♕g4 g6 30.gxh6 ♗d7 31.♕g5 ♗h3 32.♗g3 ♕f6 33.♕xf6 ♘xf6 34.♗h4 ♘d7 35.♖xd5+−
28... ♘d7?! 29.♗e7 ♕c7 30.♖h5!
The black's king is alone against the army of Williams! The end is coming.
30... ♖fe8
31.♖xh6!
A beautiful finish.
31.g5+−
31... ♘f8
31... ♘f6 32.♖xf6! ♖xe7 (32... gxf6 33.♕h6+−) 33.♕xe7 ♕xe7 34.♖xe7 gxf6 35.♖c7+−
32.♕g5 f6 33.♖xf6 ♖xe7 34.♖xc6 ♕xc6 35.♖xe7
35.♖xe7 ♕f6 36.♕xd5+ ♔h8 37.♖e5 Threatening mate and the rook on a8.
1-0 *[S.Maze]*

Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs

(31) [D47]

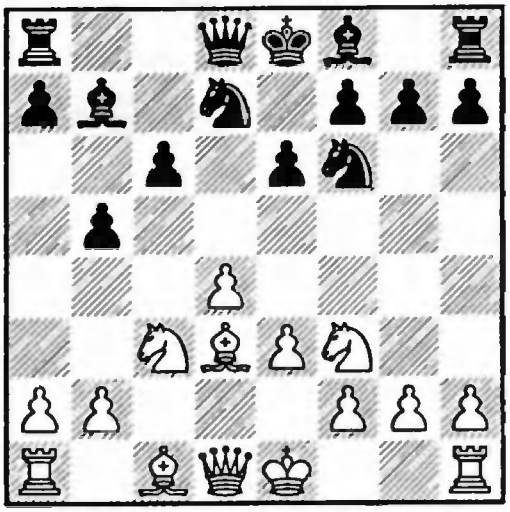
□ Wojtaszek,R (2721)
■ Shirov,A (2709)

3rd Lublin GM Lublin POL (1), 15.05.2011

Meran defence is a main repertoire of GM Alexey Shirov last few years. Many players are just following new games on high-level in this popular defence without trying to find something new and interesting. Shirov is not this kind of player and this game proves it. Once more he was suc-

essfully defending his pet line 11... a5!? (instead of main moves 11... a6 and 11... ♕e7) and showed us that this is playable line for black. Connected to this game I gave game Grandelius–Shirov, Malmoe 2011 which was played few weeks after this game. Also readers can see new idea of Jakovenko in main aleternative to line in the game which comes after 9... b4.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♘f3 ♘bd7 6.♗d3 dxc4 7.♗xc4 b5 8.♗d3 ♗b7

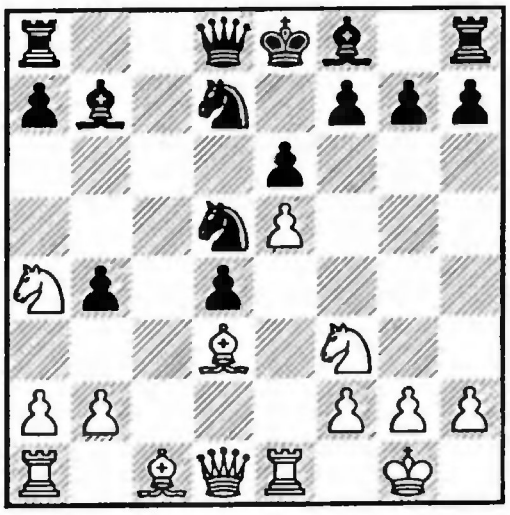


Most flexible aproach for black since he still did not decide how he will prepare brake with c5 which is main idea of Meran defence. Main alternatives are 8... a6 and 8... ♗d6. First alternative is practically forcing white to go in a most interesting line in Meran which comes after 9.e4 c5, and now white has choice between 10.d5 or 10.e5 which was played in famous match for world titile Kramnik–Anand, Bonn 2008. 8... ♗d6 is speciality of GM Boris Grachev who plays this line since his youth. In that case black is slowly preparing brake c5 trying to save a6 and after development to play b4 with next c5.

9.a3

With this move white is preparing e4 while stoping counterplay connected with b4 and next c5. Also he deprives from main lines which are more complicated and forced than move in the game.

Main alternatives are: 9.e4 b4 10.♘a4 c5 11.e5 ♘d5 12.0-0 (12.dxc5 ♘xc5 13.♘xc5 ♗xc5⇄) 12... cxd4 13.♖e1∞



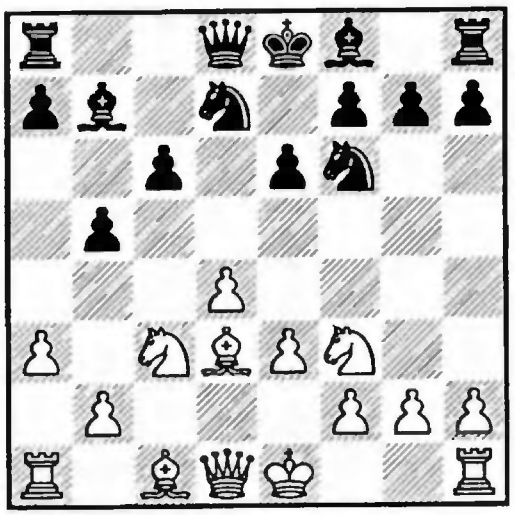
and here black can choose two ways 13... ♗e7 or 13... g6. Both continuations are leading to very complicated positions where plenty of games were played. For player who would like to start playing Meran from move order with 8... ♗b7 this should be the main line which he has to know.; or 9.0-0 a6 10.e4 c5 with transposition to main Meran where black avoid line with e5.; Note that plans connected with 9.a4 would be less precise here since black did not play a6. For example: 9... b4 10.♘e4 ♘xe4 11.♗xe4

♗e7 12.0-0 0-0 13.♕e2 ♘f6 14.♗d3 c5 = with equal game. Guidarelli–Komarov, France (tch) 2006

9... ♗d6

This is tran sposition to Meran line with 8... ♗d6, but diference is that white already chose his setup. For example, black avoid few interesting plans which white could do in move order 8... ♗d6, like 9.♗d2 followed by 10.♖c1, or 9.♘g5 with an idea ♕f3–h3 which is favourite line of GM Zdenko Kozul.

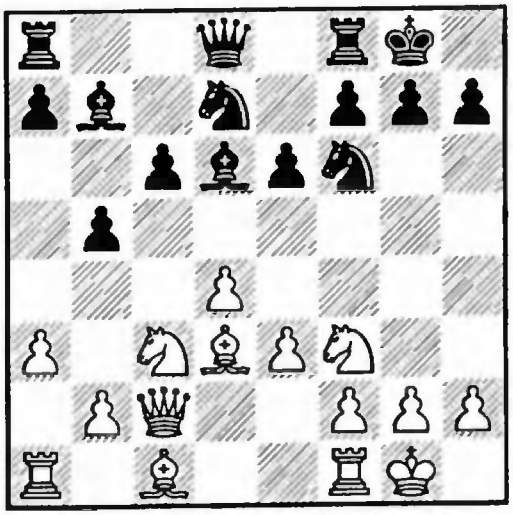
Instead 9... ♗d6 black can play



9... b4 10.♘e4 ♘xe4 11.♗xe4 bxa3 12.0-0 ♗d6, and here for followers of this line I would propose new game from French league: (After 12... ♘f6 13.♗d3 axb2 14.♗xb2 a5 white can follow famous game: 15.d5! ♘xd5 16.♘e5 ♘f6 17.♕a4⩲ with good atacking chances. Carlsen–Aronian, Bilbao 2008) 13.♘d2 axb2!?N 14.♗xb2 0-0 15.♕c2 (After 15.♘c4 ♗xh2+ 16.♔xh2 ♕h4+ 17.♔g1 ♕xe4 18.♘d6 ♕d5 19.♘xb7 ♖fb8 20.♖a5 c5 21.♘xc5 ♖xb2 22.♕a1 ♖ab8 23.♘d3 ♖2b5 24.♖xa7 h6= black has no problems.) 15... ♘f6 16.♗a3 a5! 17.♖fb1 (17.♗xd6 ♕xd6 18.♘c4 ♕c7 19.♗f3 ♖fb8⇄ and soon black will push c5.) 17... ♗xa3 18.♖xa3 ♕c7 19.♗f3 ♖fb8 20.♖ba1 c5 21.♕xc5 ♕xc5 22.dxc5 ♗xf3 23.gxf3 ♖b5 1/2-1/2 Riazantsev–Jakovenko, France (tch) 2011;

After 9... a6 white would prevent c5 with 10.b4!

10.0-0 0-0 11.♕c2

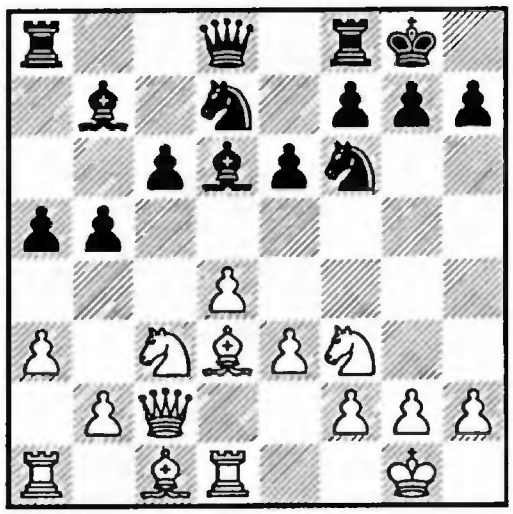


11... a5!?

Shirov's pet line. Black is trying to break with c5 after pushing b4. There are few more posibilities which are more popular than in the game like 11... a6 or 11... ♕e7, but this lines are not following plan in the game.

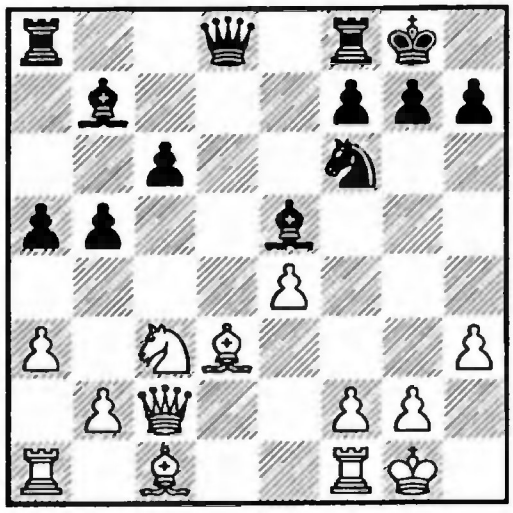
12.♖d1

Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs

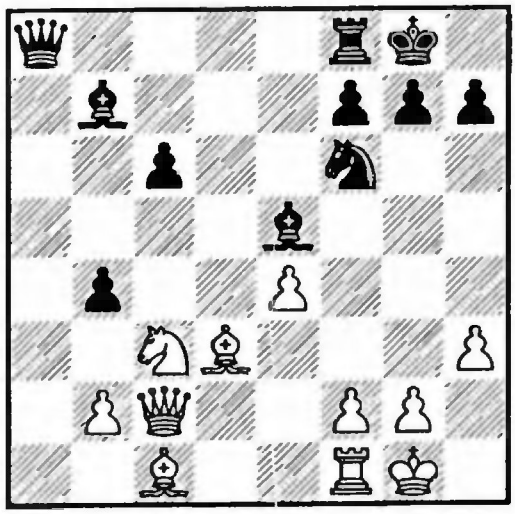


Interesting choice by white. He is preparing e4 and also disturbing blacks pieces on d-line. Until this game black were usually playing 12... ♕c7 or 12... ♕b8 but Shirov decides to play more directly.

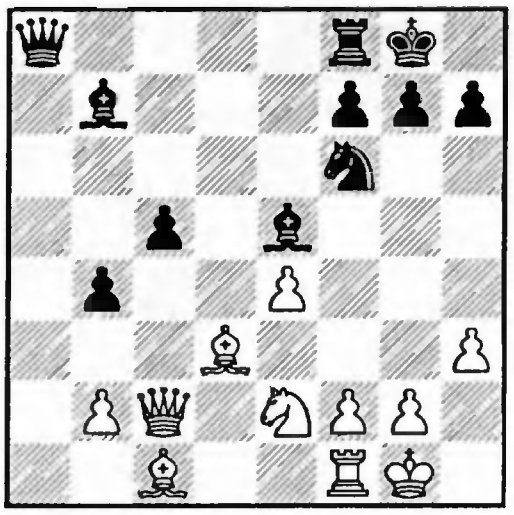
Almost one month after this game Shirov was again defending this position with black, and he showed the way how to play against most natural and most played 12.e4. Game continued: 12... e5 13.dxe5 ♘xe5 14.♘xe5 ♗xe5 15.h3!



White is preparing f4. His next move can be immediately f4 or ♘e2 with f4. 15... b4!? Relatively new try. (In last year Shirov played 15... ♗a6 and he had good position in the game.) 16.axb4 (Alternative is 16.♘a4 ♗d4 17.♖e1 c5 18.♗e3 and here I offer 18... ♖c8!N (18... ♗xe3 19.♖xe3 ♖c8 20.♖d1 c4 21.♗f1 ♕c7 22.axb4 axb4 23.♖d4 c3 24.♖xb4 cxb2 25.♕xc7 ♖xc7 26.♘c3± Dobrov-Goganov, Vladimir 2009) 19.♗xd4 cxd4 20.♕d2 bxa3 21.♖xa3 ♘d7 22.e5 ♖e8 23.f4 ♘f8⇄ and black should have good counter-chances because white king can be in danger.) 16... axb4 17.♖xa8 ♕xa8!?N



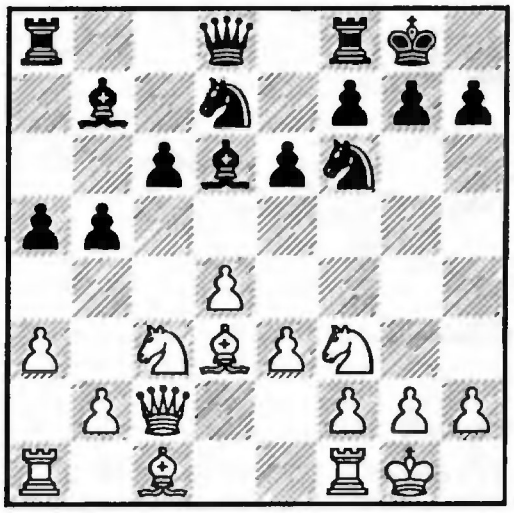
(After 17... ♗xa8 white could stabilize position with 18.♘e2!?N c5 19.♗e3 (19.f3 ♗d6 20.♗e3 ♕c7 21.♘c1 ♘h5⇄) 19... c4 20.♕xc4 ♗xb2 21.♖b1 ♗a3 22.f3 ♘d7± /= Here white has some pressure and black bishop on a3 is misplaced, but still black keeps chances for equality.) 18..♘e2 (18.♘a4!? ♗a6 19.♘c5) 18... c5



a) 19.♗f4 Just going for draw. 19... ♗xf4 20.♘xf4 ♗xe4 21.♕xc5 ♕b8 22.♗xe4 ♕xf4 23.♗f3 ♖e8 24.♕c1 ♕b8 and here it was agreed draw in game Grandelius–Shirov, Sigeman Chess Tournament (Malmoe) 13.06.2011. Computer gives small advantage for white here but it does not understand that after change of rooks there is no way to win game. For example: 25.♖d1 ♖d8 26.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 27.♕c5 ♕f8 28.♕c7 ♕e8 29.g3 ♕e1+ 30.♔g2 g6= and black is easily holding equality.;

b) 19.f4?! c4! 20.♕xc4 ♗d6∓ and white queen is vulnerable while pawn e4 and king side is weak too.;

c) More ambitous was 19.f3!? where white wants to keep structure and use c5 weeknes and c4 square to get advantage. Diference is that black pieces can become more active than in line which we check after 17... ♗xa8: 19... ♖c8 20.b3 (20.♖d1 h6 21.♗c4 ♖d8⇄) 20... h6 (20... ♗a6 21.♗e3 ♕c6 22.♖c1±) 21.♗e3 ♘d7 22.♖d1 ♘b6 23.♗f2 g6 24.♕d2 ♗g7⇄ and white has better structure, but black pieces are very active and in right moment he will push c4.;

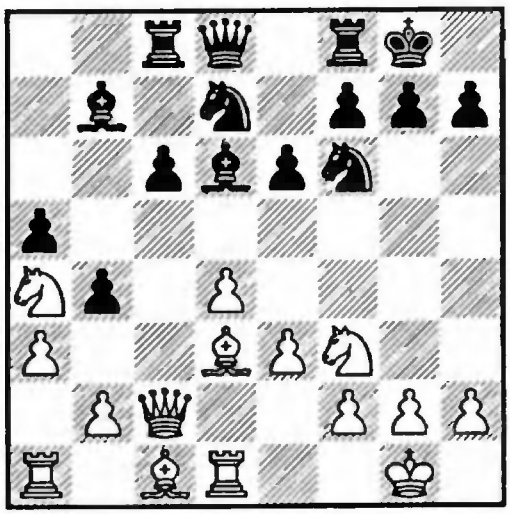


On 12.♗d2 black is equalizing with 12... ♖c8 with idea to play b4 and c5. White can try to stop this idea with ocupying e4 square 13.♘g5 h6 14.♘ge4 ♗e7 15.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 16.♘e4, but now 16... c5! works and after some precise moves position is equal: 17.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 18.dxc5 ♗xb2 19.♗h7+ (19.♗xa5 ♕d5! 20.e4 ♕e5 21.♖ab1 ♗xa3 22.♗b6 ♗xc5 23.♖xb5 ♗d6 24.♖xe5 ♖xc2 25.♗xc2 ♗xe5=) 19... ♔h8 20.♕xb2 ♔xh7 21.♖ac1 ♗c6 22.f3 ♕c7 23.♗c3 f6 24.♖fd1 ♖fd8 25.♖d6 ♖xd6 26.cxd6 ♕xd6 27.♗xa5= Onischuk–Jakovenko, Aerosvit 2008;

Typical plan with 12.♘g5 can be met by 12... h6 13.♘ge4 ♗e7 14.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 15.♘e4 ♘xe4 16.♗xe4 ♕b6 17.♗d2 b4 18.♖fc1 ♖fc8 19.axb4 axb4 20.♖xa8 ♖xa8 21.g3 ♖c8= and black will play next c5 with equal game. This was played in game Bareev–Caruana, Amsterdam 2008.; 12.h3 b4! 13.♘a4

c5 14.dxc5 ♖c8 15.axb4 axb4 16.e4 ♗xc5= and black has no problems.

12... b4!?N 13.♘a4 ♖c8



Blacks idea is obvius, he wants to push c5.

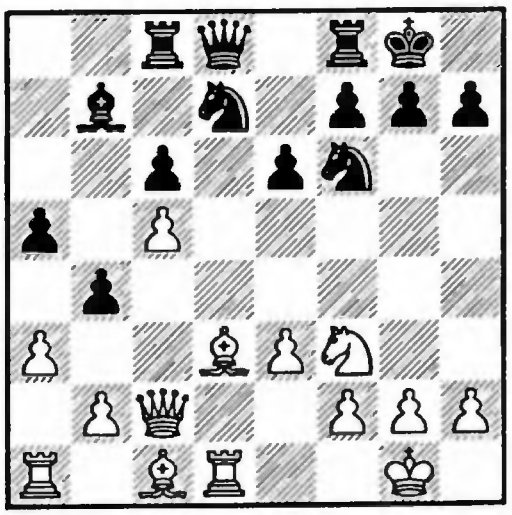
14.♘c5?!

Dubious move which white made imediatelly after black's novelty.

Better attempt was 14.axb4!, where black reacts with unusual 14... ♗xb4! (Natural 14... axb4 looks bad after 15.♘c5 ♗xc5 16.dxc5 b3 17.♕c4!±) 15.♘c5 This looks best option for white. (On 15.♘e5 black has to play active 15... c5! and after (15... h6 16.♘xd7 ♘xd7 17.♗h7+ ♔h8 18.♗e4 ♕c7 19.♘c5 ♘xc5 20.dxc5) 16.♘xd7 ♘xd7 17.♗xh7+ ♔h8 18.♗d3 (18.dxc5 g6!) 18... cxd4 19.♕e2 black has good compensation in following position: 19... ♘f6 20.♗b5 ♕c7 21.♖xd4 ♖fd8 22.♖xd8+ ♖xd8⩱) 15... ♘xc5 16.dxc5 ♕e7 17.♗d2 ♕xc5 18.♕xc5 ♗xc5 19.♗xa5 ♗e7 20.♘e5 c5⇄ In this position white has pressure, but slowly black will improve position of his pieces (for example next move can be ♘d5).;

14.♘e5 c5 15.♘xd7 ♘xd7 16.♗xh7+ ♔h8 17.dxc5 ♗xc5

14... ♗xc5 15.dxc5



15... b3!

Nice move which was probably in Shirov's preparation.

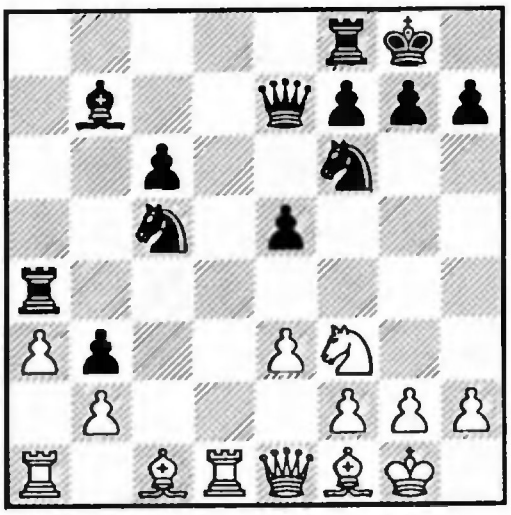
16.♕c3

16.♕xb3 ♘xc5 17.♕c4 ♘xd3 18.♖xd3 ♕c7∓ leads to a very nice position for black.

16... ♕e7 17.♕xa5?!

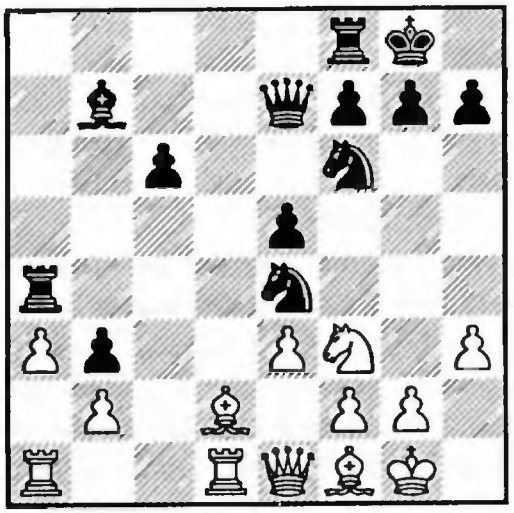
White does not feel danger. It was a last moment to try to take over initiative with 17.e4!? ♘xc5 18.♗g5 and here best option for black is 18... ♖fd8 19.e5 ♖xd3! (19... ♘xd3? 20.exf6!) 20.♖xd3 (20.exf6 ♕d6 21.♖xd3 ♘xd3 is transposition to main line.) 20... ♘xd3 21.exf6 ♕d6 22.♖d1 (22.♕xb3 ♖b8 23.♖d1 ♗a6 24.♕c3 c5 25.fxg7 e5!?∞) 22... ♗a6 23.fxg7 a4∞ and position which came is very unclear and it is hard to give some clear conclusions about it.

17... ♘xc5 18.♗c4 ♖a8 19.♕e1 ♖a4 20.♗f1 e5↑

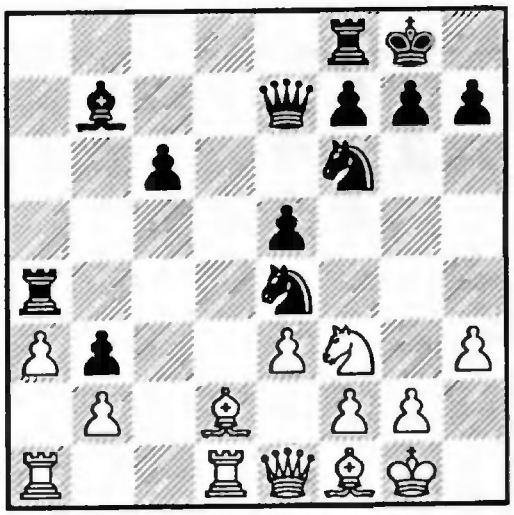


After more or less forced moves, black improved position of all his pieces and he has the initiative.

21.♗d2 ♘ce4 22.h3



It is very easy to judge about moves after the game. Maybe white should try to avoid weakness on kingside with 22.♖ac1 but again black can play active 22... g5!? (22... ♘g4? 23.♗b4 c5 24.♗b5!; 22... c5∞) 23.h3 g4 24.hxg4 ♘xg4 25.♗b4 c5 – 23. ♖ac1

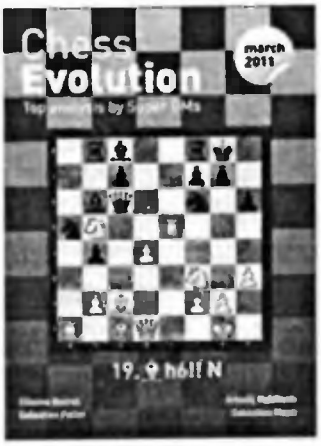


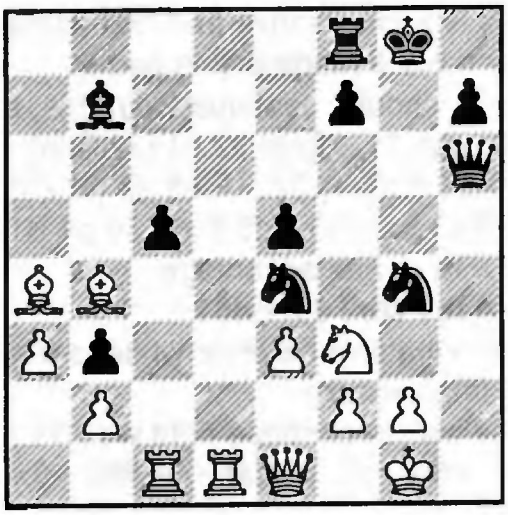
22... g5!

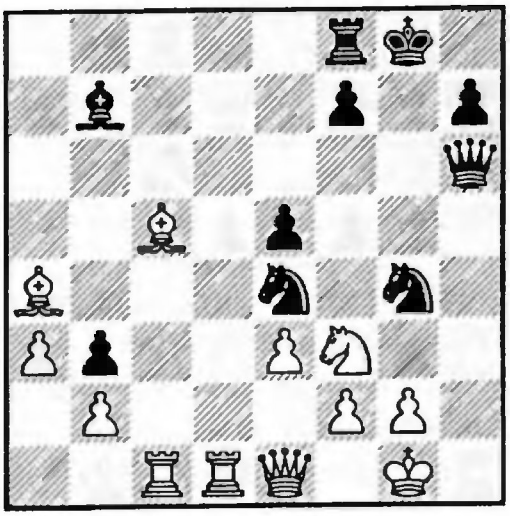
White is provoking c5, but this will not be good for him.

23.♗b4?!

He should continue with 23.♖ac1 and after 23... g4 24.hxg4 ♘xg4 25.♗b4 c5 26.♗b5! position becomes extremely complicated. Here black has very nice move 26... ♕f6! with an idea 27.♗xa4 (27.♖d7 ♗c6 28.♗xa4 ♗xa4 29.♖a7 cxb4) 27... ♕h6!! and analysis show that the only way for white to survive is to play







a) 28.♖xc5! 28... ♘exf2 29.♕xf2! (29.♔f1 ♘xd1-+) 29... ♘xf2 30.♔xf2 and black has to force draw with 30... ♗xf3 31.♔xf3 ♕h5+ 32.g4 ♕h3+= with perpetual check.

b) 28.♖c4 ♘exf2 29.♖xg4+ ♘xg4 30.♕g3 ♕xe3+ 31.♔h1 ♗xf3 32.gxf3 cxb4 33.♕xg4+ ♔h8 and although there was plenty of changes white need to be carefull because on 34.♕h5 black plays strong (34.♕h3 ♖g8!) 34... ♖g8!. It looks like white cannot prevent idea ♖g6–♖h6 if he does not play 35.♗d7 ♖g6 36.♗h3 bxa3 37.bxa3 b2-+ and black should be winning here.;

c) On 28.♗xc5 black has fantastic 28... ♘g5!! and black is winning with rook dawn! White can try with 29.♕b4 (29.♘d2 ♕h2+ 30.♔f1 ♕xg2+ 31.♔e2 ♗a6+ 32.♖c4 ♘e4-+) 29... ♗xf3 30.♕xg4 ♗xg4 31.♗xf8 ♔xf8-+ but beside piece up black still has strong atack.;

23... c5 24.♗b5 ♖a7 25.♗c3

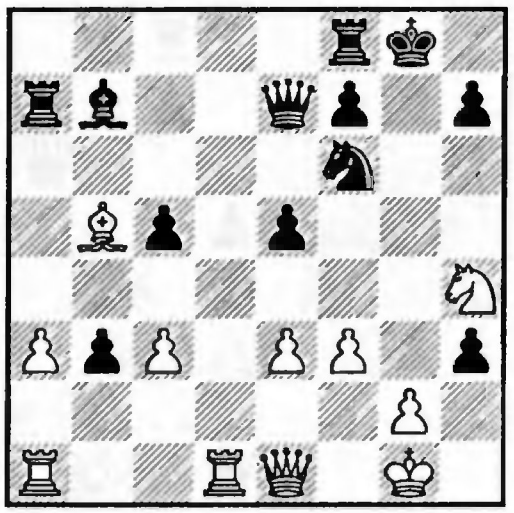
After 25.♗a5 ♖b8 black has comfortable play.

25... g4 26.♘h4

26.hxg4 ♘xg4→ is clearly worse for white.;

After 26.♘xe5 ♘xc3 27.♕xc3 ♘e4 28.♕xb3 ♕xe5∓ white is losing piece.

26... ♘xc3 27.bxc3 gxh3 28.f3!



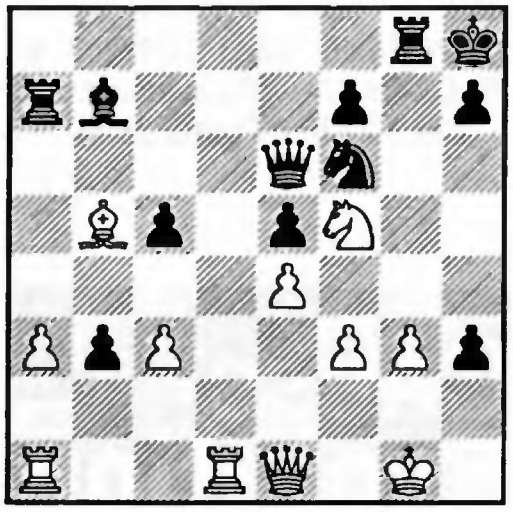
28.gxh3 ♔h8-+

28... ♔h8!

Shirov continues his attack and he is not giving any chance for white to survive.

29.♘f5 ♕e6 30.e4 ♖g8 31.g3

On 31.♖d6 black wins with 31... ♖xg2+ 32.♔h1 (32.♔f1 b2 33.♖b1 ♕b3-+) 32... ♕xf5! 33.exf5 ♗xf3-+ and white is helpless.; 31.g4 ♘xg4 32.fxg4 ♖xg4+ 33.♔h2 ♕f6-+ with devastating attack



31... b2?

This is human move and first mistake which black made in this game.

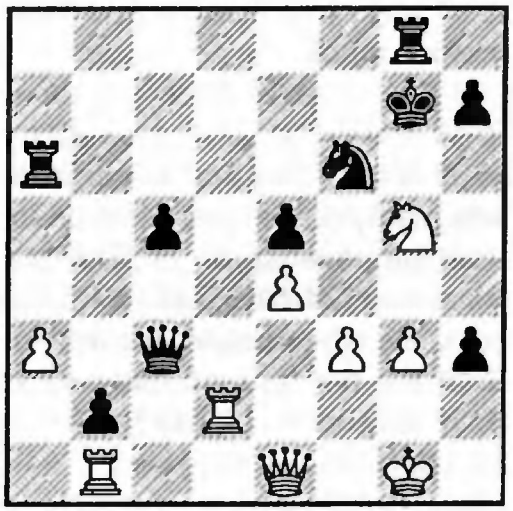
Black should continue with his attack with 31... ♗c8! 32.c4 (32.♖d6? b2 33.♖b1 ♕b3-+) 32... ♘e8 33.♔h2 ♕f6 34.♕e3 ♗xf5 35.exf5 ♕xf5 36.g4 ♕f6∓ -> with obvius advantage.

32.♖ab1 ♕b3 33.♘d6?

After longterm defence white is making final mistake.

Only way to continue fight was 33.a4! but after 33... ♗a6 34.♕f2 ♗xb5 35.axb5 ♖a2→ black keeps his attack and better prospects.

33... ♗a6 34.♗xa6 ♖xa6-+ 35.♖d2 ♕xc3 36.♘xf7+ ♔g7 37.♘g5



37... ♔h6!

After this nice move game is over. White played few more moves:

38.f4 ♖xa3 39.♔h2 ♘g4+ 40.♔h1 ♕xg3 41.♘f7+ ♔h5 42.♕xg3 ♖xg3

and here he resigned.

0-1 *[Predojevic,Borki]*

(32) **[D80]**

□ **Gelfand,B (2733)**

■ **Kamsky,G (2732)**

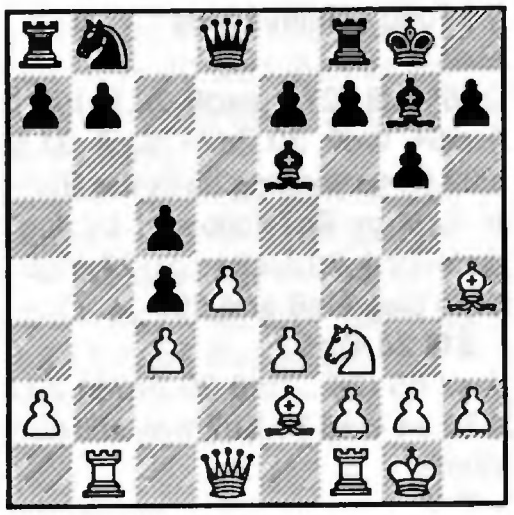
WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (2.2), 13.05.2011

Kamsky played his favourite Grunfeld ant tried a Novelty (11... ♗d5) but Gelfand reacted well and rapidly became better. Then Kamsky defended very well, but Gelfand had better prospects, so I do not recommand to repeat 11... ♗d5 but 11... cd4 or 11... b6 instead. Kamsky should think the same way beacause he played 11... cd4 in game 4 of his match against Gelfand.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♗g5 ♘e4 5.♗h4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 dxc4 7.e3 ♗e6 8.♘f3 ♗g7 9.♗e2

Other main moves are 9.♖b1 or 9.♕b1

9... c5 10.0-0 0-0 11.♖b1



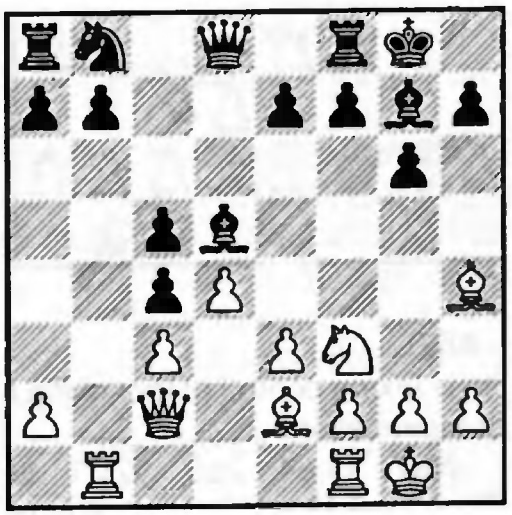
11... ♗d5?!N

And this is a novelty. In fact, not a good one I think, because in my opinion, this move was played too soon. The best is to take on d4, and if 12. ♘xd4 now black can play 12... ♗d5. and If 12.cxd4 ♕d7 is a good option for Black. So with 11... ♗d5, White can play the strong ♕c2 threatening e4.

11... cxd4 12.♘xd4 ♗d5 13.♕c2 (13. f3 b6 14.e4 ♗b7 15.♗xc4= Vuckovic (2626)–Sanikidze(2542) 2011) 13... ♕d7 14.♖fd1 ♗xd4 15.cxd4 ♕e6= was played in the 4th game of the match.;

11... b6 is also popular. 12.♕c2 cxd4 13.♘xd4 ♗d5 14.e4 ♗b7 and black is ok Caruana(2709)–Nepomniachtchi (2720) 2010

12.♕c2



12... cxd4?

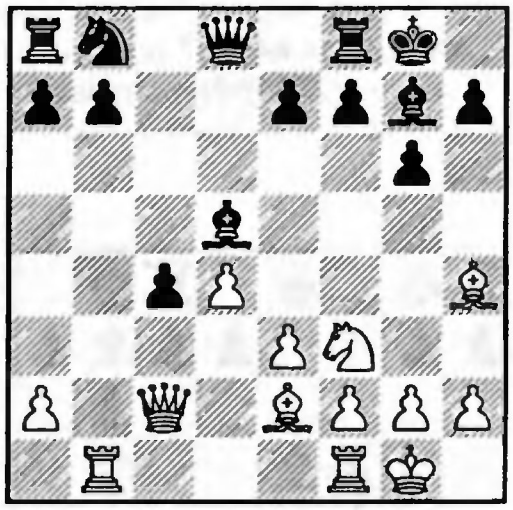
I put a question mark because this is an important strategic mistake like I explained on the move 11. So after 13.cxd4 the bishop on d5 is not on a good square. In the spirit of the Grunfeld, we don't care about the pawn in c5. So the simple 12...b6 followed by ♗b7 was better than the game.

12... f5 13.♘d2 ♘c6 14.♖b5 ♕d7 15.♖xc5 e6 16.♖b1±;

12... b6 was the logical move to make a sense of 11... ♗d5 ; 13.♖fd1 ♘d7 14.e4 cxd4 15.♘xd4 ♗b7 16.♘b5 a6 17.♘d6±

13.cxd4

Of course, ♘xd4 would be a strategic mistake and it brigns us back to the best line for Black.



13... b6?!

White is taking control of the "c" file for no compensation.

13... ♕d7 14.e4 ♗c6 15.d5 ♗a4 16.♕xc4 ♘a6 17.e5± was a better option even if white position is better.

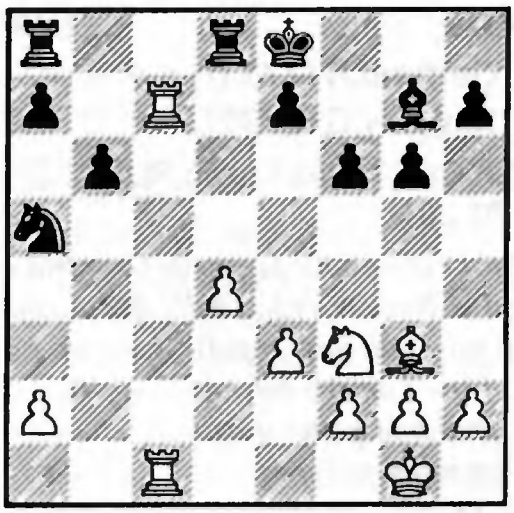
14.♗xc4 ♘c6

14... ♗xf3 15.gxf3 ♘d7 16.♕a4 a6 17.♗d5±

15.♖fc1 ♗xc4 16.♕xc4 ♘a5 17.♕c7!±

Black's position is very unpleasant. When I was watching this game live, I couldn't see how Black could hold this.

17... f6 18.♕xd8 ♖fxd8 19.♖c7 ♔f7 20.♖bc1 ♔e8 21.♗g3



21... ♗h6

21... ♖d7 22.♖xd7 ♔xd7 23.♖c7+ ♔e8 24.♘d2±

22.♔f1 ♖d7 23.♖xd7 ♔xd7 24.♖c7+ ♔e8 25.♘d2 b5 26.♘e4 a6

So far, Gelfand played extremly well, improving his pieces and avoiding any counter play. But here, he missed two very strong continuations :

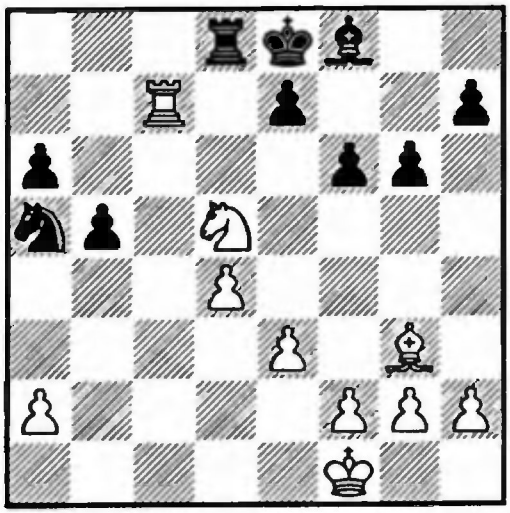
27.♘c3

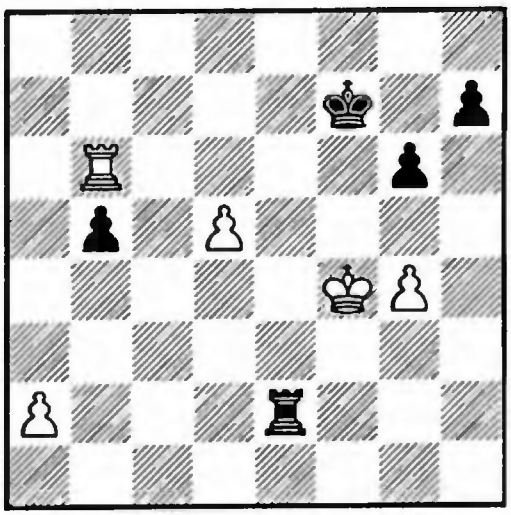
27.♗d6! ♗f8 (27... exd6 28.♖xh7 ♗f8 29.♘xf6+ ♔d8 30.♖d7+ ♔c8 31.♖f7 ♗h6 32.h4+− winning back the Bishop after ♘g4 or ♖h7 followed by ♘d7.) 28.♗c5 ♘c4 29.♘c3±; or 27.♘c5 in order to play ♘e6 and d5.

27... ♗f8 28.♘d5

28.♔e2 h5 (28... ♖d8 29.♖a7±) 29.h3 ♘c4 30.a4 ♘a3 31.♖b7 was still better for White.

28... ♖d8





29.e4?!

Gelfand should have moved his Knight in order to keephold of his grip on the position. Now, Black faces some counter play.

29... f5 30.f3 fxe4 31.fxe4 ♖d7 32.♔e2 ♗g7 33.♗f2 e6 34.♖c8+ ♔f7 35.♘b6 ♖b7 36.d5

36.♘a8!? b4 37.♘c7 b3 38.axb3 ♘xb3 39.e5 ♘c1+ 40.♔d1 ♘d3 41.♗g3 ♘b4 42.♘e8 ♗f8 43.♘d6+ ♗xd6 44.exd6 ♘d5 45.♗e5±

36... exd5 37.exd5 ♗e5 38.♖a8 ♘c4 39.♖xa6 ♘xb6 40.♗xb6 ♗xh2 41.♔f3 ♖d7= 42.♔e4 ♖e7+ 43.♔d3 ♖d7 44.♔d4 ♗g1+ 45.♔e4 ♖e7+ 46.♔f4 ♗xb6 47.♖xb6 ♖e2 48.g4

48... h5

A important move from Kamsky. Now the endgame will be a easy draw for Black.

49.♖b7+ ♔f8 50.g5 h4 51.♖h7 b4 52.♖xh4 ♔e7 53.♖h6 ♖xa2 54.♖xg6 ♖d2 55.♖e6+ ♔f7 56.♔e5 b3 57.♖f6+ ♔g7 58.♖b6 b2 59.d6 ♔g6 60.♔e6 ♖e2+ 61.♔d5 ♖d2+ 62.♔c6 ♔xg5 63.d7 ♖c2+ 64.♔d6 ♖d2+ 65.♔e6 ♖e2+ 66.♔f7 ♖f2+

A very tenacious defense by Kamsky!

½-½ *[S.Maze]*

(33) **[D86]**

□ **Aronian,L (2808)**

■ **Grischuk,A (2747)**

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (1.1), 05.05.2011

In a defense Grunfeld, Grischuk choosed a rare line 10... b6 and plays later a good novelty with 14... bxc5. After it, Black's position was fine. In my opinion 20... ♗g4 is a strategical mistake and Aronian obtained a small advantage. He plays a

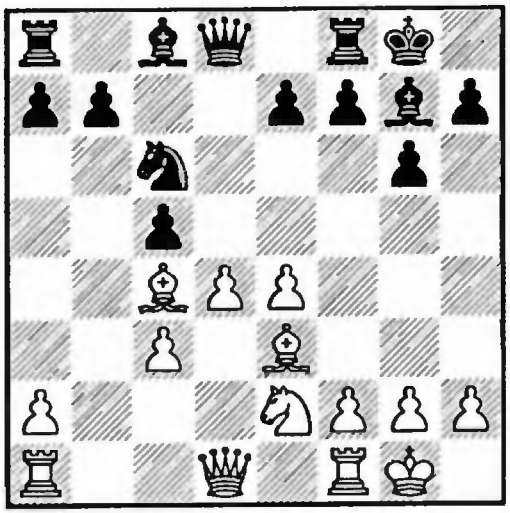
Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs

fantastic endgame but unfornately, he missed the win on move 69 with Ne5.I also analysed 14.♗d5 who is maybe an interesting idea to play

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5

What a surprise! Grischuk chose the Grunfeld defence against Aronian. The last Grunfeld played it by the Russian player was in 2005 against Sulava!!

4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♗g7 7.♗c4 c5 8.♘e2 ♘c6 9.♗e3 0-0 10.0-0



10... b6

Second surprise of the day! 10... b6 is a rare move played by Anand against Topalov in their World Championship match.A Grischuk is very well prepared for this match and wants to show to his opponent that he is ready for a big fight! Other possibilities are 10... ♕c7 or 10... ♗g4 or 10... ♗d7

11.dxc5

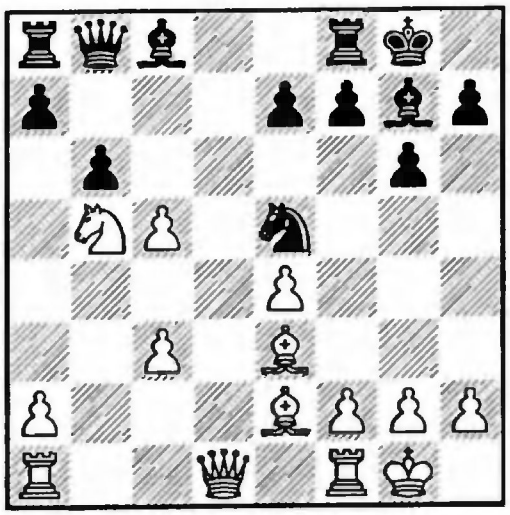
In my opinion, it is the logical answer for White. Black doesn't care about this pawn but now white can put the knight on d4.

11.♕d2 ♗b7 12.♖ac1 ♖c8 13.♖fd1 cxd4 14.cxd4 ♕d6 15.d5 ♘a5 16.♗b5 ♖xc1 17. ♖xc1 ♖c8 Topalov–Anand 2010

11... ♕c7

A typical pawn sacrifice in the Grunfeld. For example after 12.cxb6 axb6, black will have 2 targets on a2 and on c3. Also the files are open and this kind of position is very pleasant to play in for Black.

12.♘d4 ♘e5 13.♘b5 ♕b8 14.♗e2

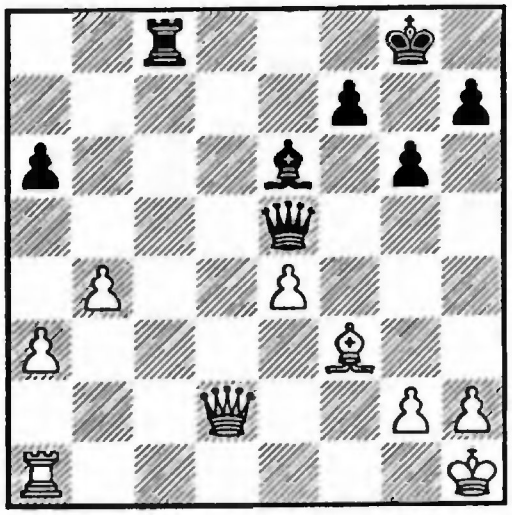


14.♗d5N Is a interesting alternative. 14... ♘g4 15.g3 ♘xe3 16.fxe3 ♗h3 17.♖f2 bxc5 18.♖b1 ♗h6 19.♕f3 ♕e5 20.♗xa8 ♖xa8 21.♕xf7+ (21.g4 ♗xg4 22.♕xg4 ♗xe3 23.♖bb2 ♗xf2+ 24.♖xf2 a6 25.♘a3 ♕xc3=) 21... ♔h8 22.♕d5 ♕xd5 23.exd5 ♗xe3 24.♖e1 ♗xf2+ 25.♔xf2 ♖f8+ 26.♔e3 a5 This endgame is slighty better for White due to the weakness on e7. But I think black has good chances to survive.

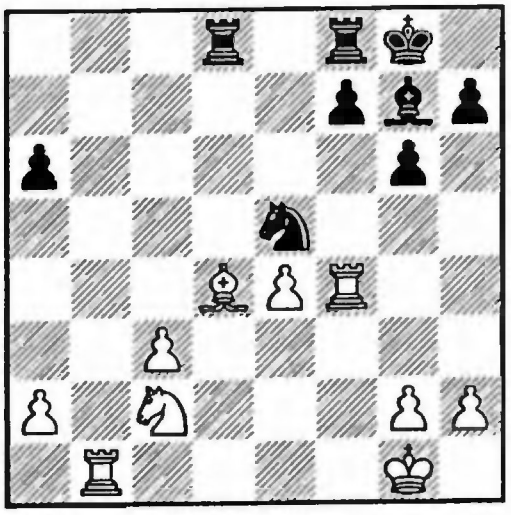
14... bxc5N

14... a6 15.♘a3 b5 16.♘c2 ♘c6 17.♘d4± Kulaots– So 2010

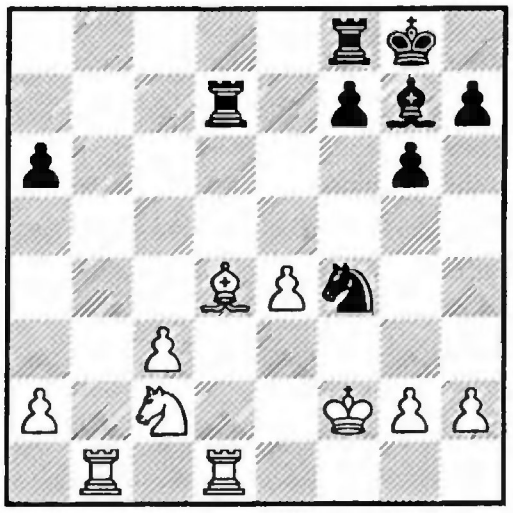
15.f4 ♘g4 16.♗xc5
16.♗xg4 ♗xg4 17.♕xg4 ♕xb5 18.e5=
16... a6 17.♘a3
17.e5? ♗xe5 18.fxe5 ♕xe5 19.♗xg4 ♕xc5+ 20.♘d4 e5 21.♗f3 ♖b8 22.♔h1 exd4 23.♕xd4 ♕xd4 24.cxd4 ♖d8=
17... ♕c7 18.♗d4 e5
The main idea of the Grunfeld : destroy the white center...
19.fxe5 ♘xe5 20.♕c1 ♗g4?!
Let's focus on this move. In my opinion, Black should not exchange those bishops. Also it's never a good thing to exchange pieces when you are pawn down.The simple ♗e6 following by ♖b8 and maybe h5 looks fine for Black.
20... ♗e6 21.♘c2 ♖ab8 22.♘b4 (22.♘e3 ♖fd8∞) 22... ♖xb4 (22... ♘g4 23.♗xg4 ♗xd4+ 24.cxd4 ♕xc1 25.♖axc1 ♖xb4 26.♗xe6 fxe6 27.♖c6 a5=) 23.cxb4 ♘f3+ 24.♗xf3 ♗xd4+ 25.♔h1 ♕b8 26.a3 ♖c8 27.♕d2 ♗xa1 28.♖xa1 ♕e5=



Black is pawn down, but all black pieces are well placed and it will be an easy draw.
21.♗xg4 ♘xg4 22.♕f4 ♕xf4
22... ♘e5? 23.♘c2 ♖ab8 24.♘e3±
23.♖xf4
Aronian is quiet happy to enter in a endgame. I think it should be a draw, but against such a strong player, it will be very tough.
23... ♘e5 24.♖b1 ♖ad8 25.♘c2



25... ♘d3?
Not the best in my opinion, it's difficult to understand the idea of this move... I think that 25... ♘c4 would be preferable.
25... ♘c4 26.♖b4 (26.♖b7 ♘d6 27.♖b6 ♘b5 28.e5 ♖c8=) 26... ♖c8 27.♖a4 ♗xd4+ 28.♘xd4 ♘e5 29.♖a3 ♖fd8=
26.♖ff1 ♖d7 27.♖fd1 ♘f4 28.♔f2



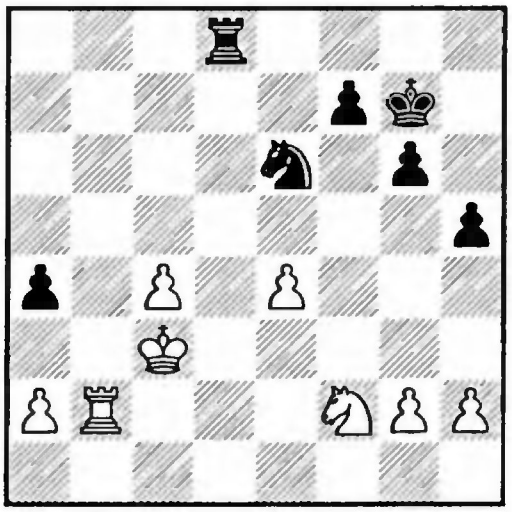
28... ♖c8

28... ♘e6 29.♗xg7 ♖xd1 30.♖xd1 ♔xg7 31.♘b4 ♖c8 32.♘d5 ♖c4 with good chances to save the game.

29.♘e3± h5 30.♖b6 ♘e6 31.♗xg7 ♖xd1 32.♘xd1 ♔xg7 33.♔e3 ♘c5

Now this endgame is going wrong for Grischuk, he played some bad moves and Aronian is working on his edge step by step.

34.♖d6 a5 35.c4 a4 36.♔d4 ♘e6+ 37.♔c3 ♖b8 38.♖d5 ♘f4 39.♖d2 ♘e6 40.♖b2 ♖d8 41.♘f2±



41... a3 42.♖d2 ♖b8 43.♘d3 ♖b1 44.c5 ♔f6 45.c6 ♔e7 46.♘b4 ♖c1+ 47.♔b3?

47.♘c2 ♖b1 48.♖d7+ ♔e8 49.♖a7 h4 50.♖xa3 ♖g1 51.♘b4 ♘c7 (51... ♖xg2 52.♖a8+ ♔e7 53.e5+−) 52.♔b3 ♖b1+ (52... ♖xg2 53.♘d5+−) 53.♔c4+−

47... ♘c5+ 48.♔xa3 ♘xe4 49.♖d4

The position is still winning for Aronian, he just needs to play some accurate moves and the game will be over.

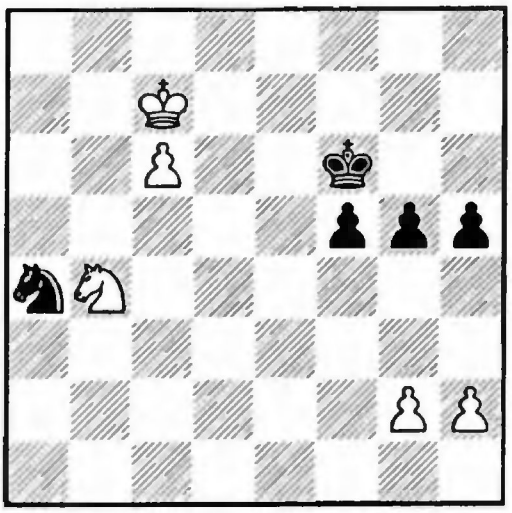
49... ♘d6 50.♔a4 ♔e6 51.♔a5+−

The king is coming, no chances for Grischuk to save this position.

51... ♖c5+ 52.♔a6 g5 53.a4 ♔e5 54.♖d2 ♖c4 55.♔a5 f5 56.♖c2 ♔d4 57.♖d2+ ♔e5 58.♘d3+ ♔f6 59.♔b6 ♘c8+ 60.♔b7 ♘d6+ 61.♔c7 ♘e4 62.♖a2 ♘c3 63.♖b2 ♘xa4 64.♖b4 ♖xb4

64... ♖c3 65.♖xa4 ♖xd3 66.♔c8+−

65.♘xb4



65... ♘c5 66.♔b6 ♘e6 67.♘d3 h4

67... ♔e7 68.♘e5 f4 69.c7 ♘xc7 70.♔xc7 ♔e6 71.♘f3 g4 72.♔c6 gxf3 73.gxf3 ♔e5 74.♔c5+−

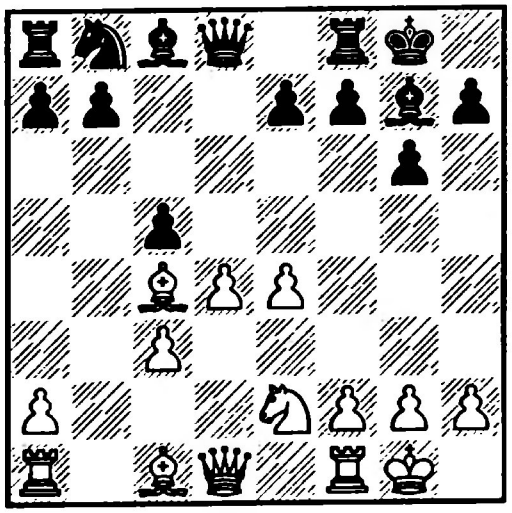
68.h3 ♔e7 69.♘c5??
Ouhh, what a blunder, he thought that the pawn's endgame was winning. After such a super strategic game, he made a mistake in the last move.
69.♘e5 ♔d8 70.♘f7+ ♔c8 71.♘d6+ ♔b8 72.♘xf5+- And the game is over...
69... ♘xc5 70.♔xc5 ♔d8
½-½ *[S.Maze]*

(34) **[D87]**

□ Zhou Jianchao (2636)
■ Li Chao2 (2656)
2nd GM Danzhou CHN (6), 20.05.2011

Gruenfeld defence is one of the most dynamic openings for black after 1.d4. In this game we will see very interesting idea employed by black with 9... ♕a5!? in Classical line (7.♗c4 followed by 8.♘e2). This can be interesting line for those who like to play Gruenfeld but don't want to go in main lines after 9... ♘c6. After 9... ♕a5!? white didn't find best moves and very soon black took over initiative and won the game in nice style. I also took some time to analyse other possibilities with hope that this will help readers to understand main ideas for both sides.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5
Gruenfeld is well known as very concrete opening. Black is allowing white to build up a center, with hope that in a future his attack on it will be enough for counterplay. Many of World Champions like Kasparov, Fisher, Smyslov, Botvinik and others have played Gruenfeld in their careers and that is a proof how strong is black's strategy which he choses by playing this opening.
4.cxd5
Already here white has plenty possibilities like 4.♘f3, 4.♕a4+, 4.♗g5 etc. In the game white preffers to take center with e4 and than to decide how will he develop his pieces.
4... ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♗g7 7.♗c4 c5 8.♘e2 0-0 9.0-0



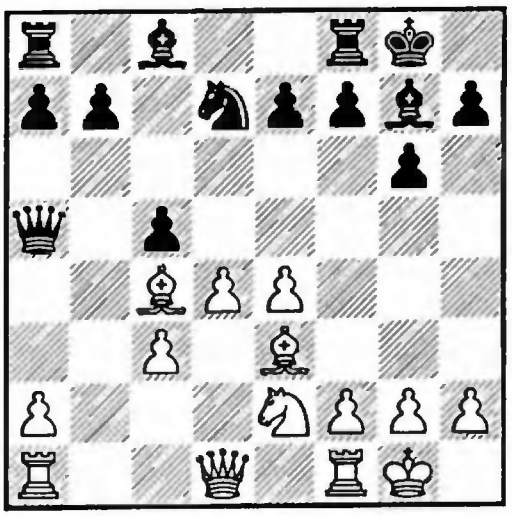
9... ♕a5!?
This idea was never played before on a high level. Black wants to play on queenside with unusual scheme in this line: his idea ♘d7-b6 is connected with ♗d7 when he takes control over important squares a4 and c4. Also typical push with d5 is not so strong as black knight is not on c6.
Main line is 9... ♘c6 10.♗e3 and here black has a lot of moves like: 10... ♗g4, 10... ♗d7, 10... ♕c7, 10... cxd4, 10... ♘a5, 10... b6 etc.;
Connected to the idea in the game is 9... ♘d7 but this allows white to play

more active 10.♗g5! and after 10... h6 (10... b6 is too slow. Now white continues with typical attacking plan: 11.e5! h6 12.♗h4 g5 Only way to stop break e6. 13.♗g3 e6 14.f4± and white is clearly better thanks to black's bad pawn structure which gives him good atacking chances. Korobov–Kovchan, Kharkov 2007; 10... ♕c7? 11.♗xe7 ♖e8 12.d5!± and white is pawn up. If black takes on e7 white is winning exchange with 13.d6.) 11.♗h4 is promising where white keeps pressure on e7. Black can play: (Other alternative 11.♗e3 also gives advantage, because at some point white will use weakness h6 to get developing tempo with ♕d2 which will speed up white development and break with d5. 11... ♘b6 12.♗b3 cxd4 13.cxd4 ♗d7 14.♕d2 ♔h7 15.♖ac1± and next is d5 with intiative.) 11... ♘b6 12.♗b3 cxd4 13.cxd4 ♗d7 but after 14.a4 ♖c8 15.♕d3 ♗c6 (15... a5 16.f3± /\ ♘c3 and black has week pawns on a queenside.) 16.a5 ♘d7 17.♖fc1± white has initiative on both wings.

10.♖b1

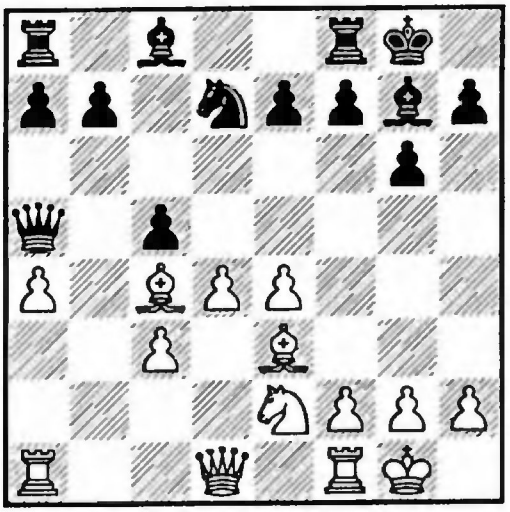
Logical continuation. White is moving his rook from diagonal a1-h8 and threating ♖b5.

Normal development in a spirit of white setup and most played move here is 10.♗e3. Here I suggest for black to follow the same plan as in the game: 10... ♘d7



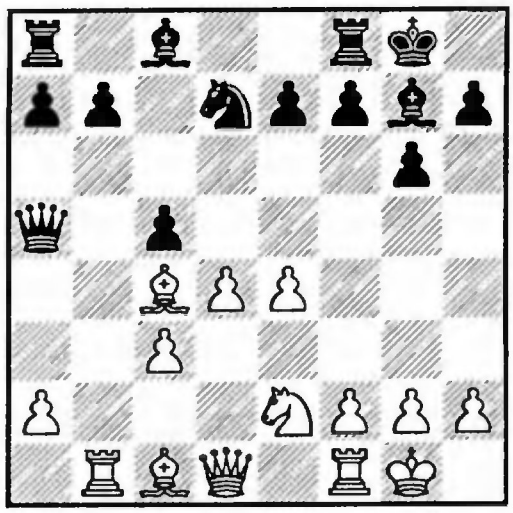
11.♗b3! White is moving his bishop from c4 where it was exposed to ♘b6.

a) On 11.a4 black gets tempo with



11... ♘b6 and after 12.♗b3 cxd4 13.cxd4 ♗d7 black wants to play ♖ac8 and ♘c4. Now if white continues his develop with 14.♕d3 there is (14.d5 ♗xa1 15.♕xa1 ♕b4 16.♗h6 f6 17.♗xf8 ♔xf8∓; 14.♗d2 ♕a6 15.♗g5 e6 16.a5 ♗b5! 17.axb6 ♗xe2 18.♕d2 ♕xb6 19.♕xe2 ♕xb3) 14... ♘xa4 15.♗xa4 ♗xa4 16.♘c3 b5 17.♘xa4 bxa4 18.♗d2

10... ♘d7N



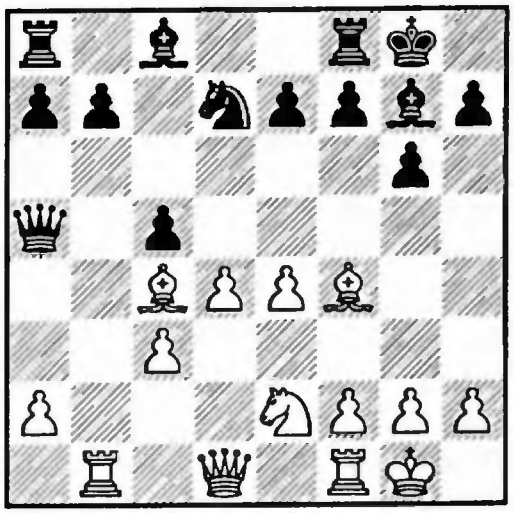
This is oficially novelty, but it is normal continuation which we saw before in notes. Black is preparing ♘b6, cxd4 and ♗d7.

11.h3?!

In my opinion this move is too slow. Gruenfeld defence was my main weapon with black in period 2002–2007 and I was never afraid from this kind of moves. White did not feel that this is the critical moment in the game and very soon black had nice position. 11.♖b5 is too active and with this move white helps black`s idea to push a6 and b5. 11... ♕c7 12.♗f4 (12.♗d5 a6 13.♖b2 cxd4 14.cxd4 ♘f6 15.♖c2 ♕d8 16.♘c3 ♘xd5 17.♘xd5 ♗d7 18.♗a3 ♖e8 19.♘c7 ♗a4 20.♘xa8 ♕xa8 21.d5 b5 22.♕e2 ♗xc2 23.♕xc2 ♖c8 24.♕e2 ♕b7∓) 12... e5 13.dxe5 ♘xe5 (13... ♗xe5 14.♗xe5 ♘xe5 15.♗d5 ♘g4 16.g3 ♖b8⇄) 14.♗d5 ♖b8 15.♗g3 b6 16.f4 ♘g4 17.f5 ♗e5 18.♖f3 ♗b7∞ with unclear game.;

11.♗e3 ♘b6 is transposition to 10.♗e3 ♘d7 11.♖b1 ♘b6 which we saw before.;

In order to stop the idea Nb6 white can try 11.♗f4,



but black`s answer stays same:

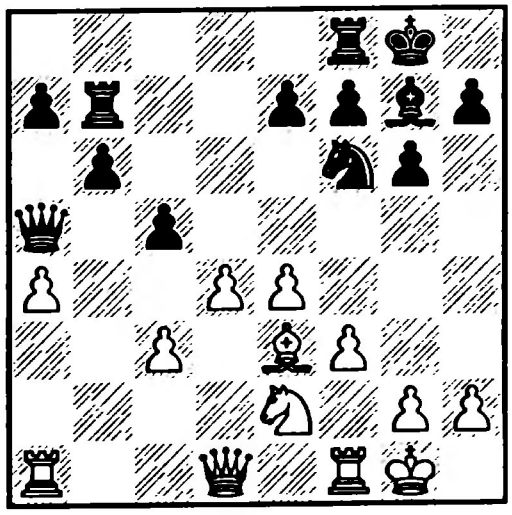
11... ♘b6 12.♗c7 ♗d7 13.♕d3 (Decisive mistake would be 13.♕b3?? ♗a4! 14.♗xb6 ♗xb3 15.♗xa5 ♗xc4-+ /\ ♗xe2 (>< ♘e2) or b6 (>< ♗a5) and white is losing one piece.) 13... cxd4! (Less precise is 13... ♖fc8 14.♗xb6 axb6 and after 15.d5! white has ad vantage on whtie squares while black rooks cannot become active on c-line.) 14.cxd4 ♖fc8 15.♗xb6 axb6 16.♘f4 (16.♖fc1 b5 17.♗b3 b4 with good game.; 16.♖fd1 ♖c7 /\ Rac8, b5, b4) 16... e6 with good game for black. (More complicated possibility is: 16... ♕a4 17.♗d5 (17.♘d5?? ♖xc4 18.♘xb6 ♖xd4-+) 17... ♖d8 18.♘e2 (18.♗xb7 ♖a7 19.♖xb6 ♗xd4∓ with initiative.) 18... ♗c6 and black should be satisfied with his position.) ;

♕d8 19.♖xa4 ♕d7 20.♖fa1 ♖fc8⇄ with aproximately equal position.;

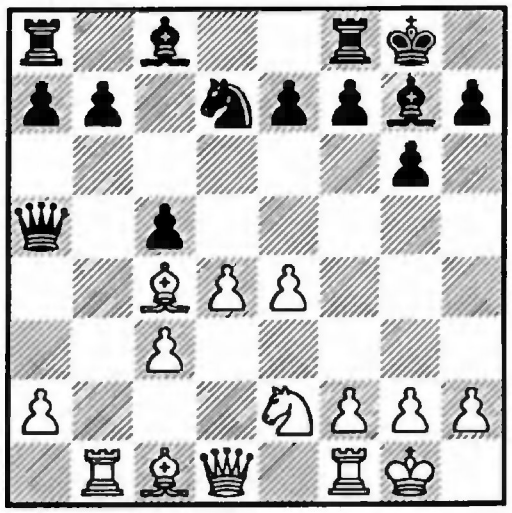
b) 11.♖b1 ♘b6 12.♗d3 (12.♗b3 cxd4 13.cxd4 ♗d7 14.e5 e6 15.♘f4 ♖ad8 16.♗d2 ♕a6 17.♗b4 ♖fe8 18.♘d3 ♘a4⇄) 12... cxd4 (12... ♗d7 13.dxc5 ♘a4 14.♕b3 ♗c6 15.♕a3) 13.cxd4 ♗d7 14.♕d2 (14.♗d2 ♕xa2 15.♗b4 ♖fc8∞; 14.♕b3 e6 15.♖fc1 ♖fc8 16.♖c5 ♕a4 17.♕xa4 ♗xa4⇄) 14... ♕xd2 15.♗xd2 e6 16.♖fc1 ♖fc8⇄; 11... b6 This looks most logical answer to 11.♗b3. Black continues with his develop. Idea is to play ♗b7 or ♗a6.

a) Now 11... ♘b6 has less sence since white can play interesting 12.d5! (12.dxc5 ♘d7 13.♕d5 e6 14.♕c4 b6∞; 12.f4 ♗g4 >< d4) 12... ♗g4 (12... c4?! 13.♗c2 e6 14.dxe6 ♗xe6 15.♗d4± and white took control over d4 square which gives him advantage.; 12... ♗d7 13.c4! is similar like main line.; 12... e6 13.dxe6±) 13.f3 ♗d7 14.c4! Typical sacrifice in Gruenfeld. Now black needs to play very concrete moves to disturb white center or to take exchange and try to defend his position: 14... ♗xa1 (After 14... f5 15.exf5 ♗xa1 (15... ♗xf5 16.♘g3↑) 16.♕xa1 ♗xf5 17.♘g3⩱ white has a huge compensation for excange and better position.) 15.♕xa1 f6 16.♘f4⩱ with good compensation for white.;

b) 11... cxd4?! just helps white to claim advantage after 12.cxd4 ♘b6 13.♖c1±; 12.♗d5 Again move with lightsquared bishop! This is maybe against some rules but white is trying to stop ♗b7 and to disturb black queen which does not have so much space after 11... b6. (12.♖c1 ♗a6⇄; 12.♗d2 e6 13.c4 ♕a3!?⇄; 12.♘f4!?) 12... ♖b8 13.a4 ♘f6! Getting one more tempo with atacking ♗d5. (After 13... ♗b7 14.♗xb7 ♖xb7 15.♕d3 (15.d5 ♗xc3 16.♘xc3 ♕xc3 17.♖c1 ♕b2∞) 15... ♖d8 (15... cxd4 16.cxd4 ♖c8 17.♗d2 ♕h5 18.♖ac1±) 16.♕c4 a6 (Worse is 16... ♖c7 17.d5±) 17.♖fd1± white keeps pressure.) 14.♗c6 (14.♗f4 ♘xd5 15.♗xb8 ♗a6 16.exd5 ♖xb8⩱) 14... ♗b7 15.♗xb7 ♖xb7 16.f3



16... e6! Key move. Now break with d5 is not so strong. Next plan for black is to prepare cxd4 with play on c-line. 17.♕d3 ♖d8⇄; Key move after 9... ♘d7, 10.♗g5 is not working now: 10... cxd4 11.♗xe7 ♖e8 12.♗d6 (After 12.♗b4 ♕c7 13.♗b5 (13.♗d5 a5 14.♗a3 dxc3∓) 13... ♗d7 14.♘xd4 black has strong reply 14... a5! 15.♗a3 ♕xc3 16.♗xd7 ♘xd7 17.♘b3 ♕c6 18.♖c1 ♕a4 19.♖c7 ♘f6∓ and soon black will have pawn up.) 12... ♗e6 13.♗b4 ♕c7 14.♗xe6 ♖xe6 15.♘xd4 ♖xe4 16.♕f3 ♖e5∓ with advantage for black.



After 11.♕b3!? ♘b6 12.♗b5 black has more posibilities but I suggest: 12... a6 (12... ♗d7 13.♗xd7 ♘xd7 14.d5 ♕a6 15.♖e1 b6 16.♗g5 c4 17.♕b5 (17.♕c2 ♖fe8) 17... ♕xb5 18.♖xb5 ♖fe8 (18... e6 19.♖d1 exd5 20.♖dxd5) 19.♖b4 ♖ac8 20.♖eb1∞ (20.♖d1 ♘c5 21.♖xc4 b5 22.♖b4 a5 23.♖xb5 ♘xe4 24.♗d2 ♘xd2 25.♖xd2 ♗xc3 26.♘xc3 ♖xc3 27.g3 a4 28.♖a5 ♖c4 29.♔g2 ♔f8 30.♖a7 ♖d8 31.♖e2 ♖xd5 32.♖exe7 ♖f5=)) 13.♗d3 ♘a4 14.♕a3 b5

Usually this kind of positions with very active knight on a4 and pressure with queenside pawns black cannot make i normal lines, so if there is no direct refutation of this plan black is doing great. White can try with pressure on e7 pawn with 15.♗g5, but here black is not obliged to play passive moves to defend e7 pawn and he can play simple (15.♗e3 ♖d8 16.♗c2 ♗d7; 15.dxc5 ♗e6 16.♖d1 ♗xc3!) 15... ♗b7 16.♗xe7 ♖fe8 17.♗xc5 ♗xe4 18.♗xe4 ♖xe4 19.♗b4 ♕b6⇄ with long term compensation for sacrifised pawn. White should take care about his bishop on b4 because black can play a5 at any moment.

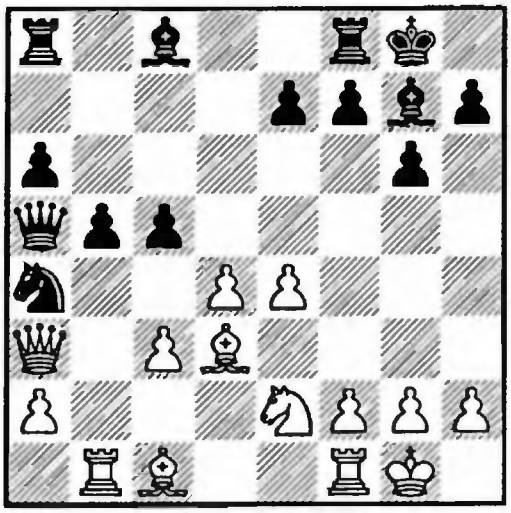
11... ♘b6 12.♗b3

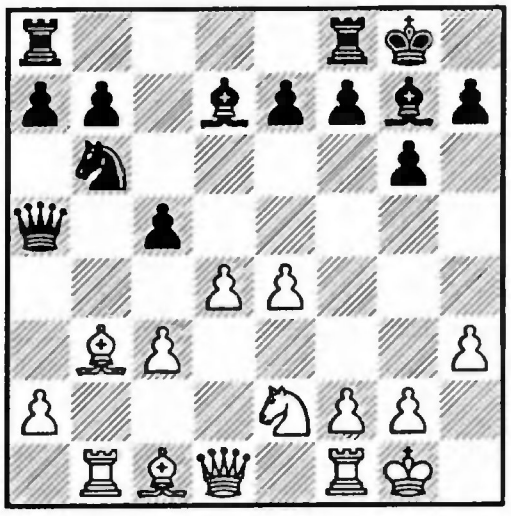
White is defending pawn on a2.

Better option was 12.♗d3 cxd4 13.cxd4 ♕xa2; 12.♖b5? ♕a6∓

12... ♗d7

Black`s play is rather simple and logical. He finished his develop and he is preparing for action in center and on queenside.





13.♗d2

After 13.d5 c4 14.♗c2 e6↑ black has nice position.;

On 13.♗e3 can follow 13... ♖fd8↑ where black increases pressure on white center. White will be forced to close the center with d5 and black will occupy c4 and a4 squares with Bb5 with better prospects.;

13.dxc5 ♕xc5 14.♗e3 ♕c7∓ and black has better structure.

13... ♖fd8∓ 14.f4

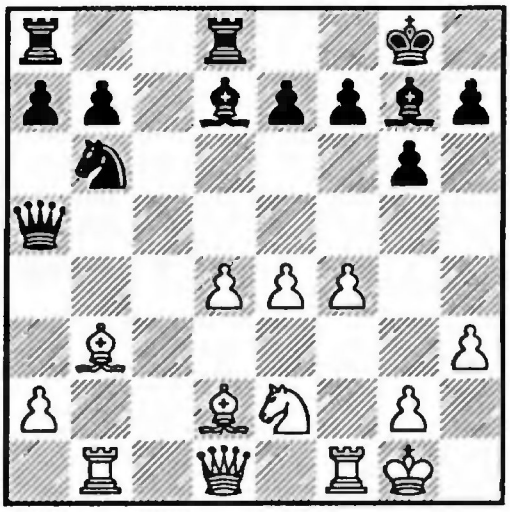
White is dreaming about using f7 square, but as game shows black attack is much faster.

14.c4 ♕a6 15.♗g5 cxd4 16.♗xe7 ♖e8 17.♗c5 ♖ad8∓

14... cxd4

Black could play safer 14... e6∓ where he holds advantage, but move in the game is better and more concrete.

15.cxd4



15... ♕a6!

Again typical plan. Black is threating Bb5 and it looks that white cannot hold center without playing e5 which leads to strategic advantage for black (he will take control over d5 square and d-pawn will stay weak).

16.f5

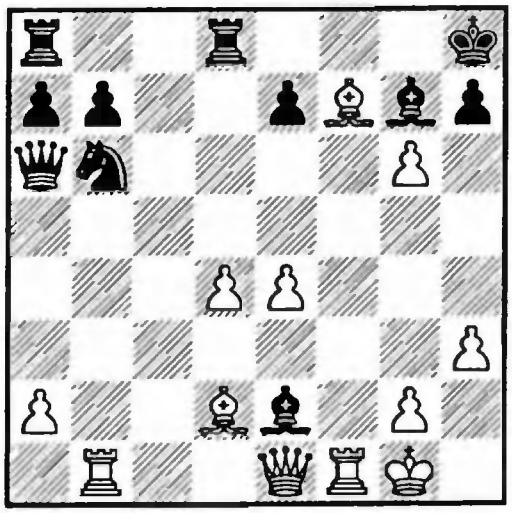
Alternative 16.♖f2 ♗b5 17.e5 e6∓ looks horible for white.

16... ♗b5 17.fxg6

Best practical chance.

After 17.♖e1 ♗xe2 18.♕xe2 (18.♖xe2 ♗xd4+ 19.♔h1 ♖ac8∓) 18... ♕xe2 19.♖xe2 ♗xd4+ 20.♔f1 ♖ac8∓ black is pawn up and he hass better position.; 17.♗xf7+? ♔xf7 18.fxg6+ ♔g8 19.gxh7+ ♔h8-+

17... ♗xe2 18.♗xf7+ ♔h8 19.♕e1



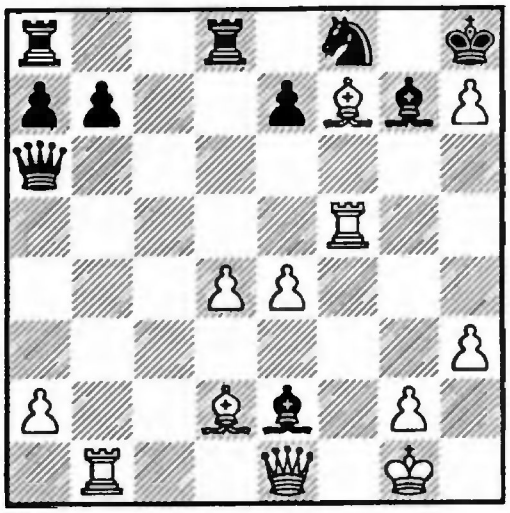
19... ♘d7!

Correct and accurate defence. Black transfers his knight to f8 and probably white cannot make serious attack on black king while material advantage is on black`s side. 19... ♗xf1? 20.♕h4 ♗xd4+ 21.♔h2 ♗e5+ 22.♔g1 ♗d4+= leads to draw.

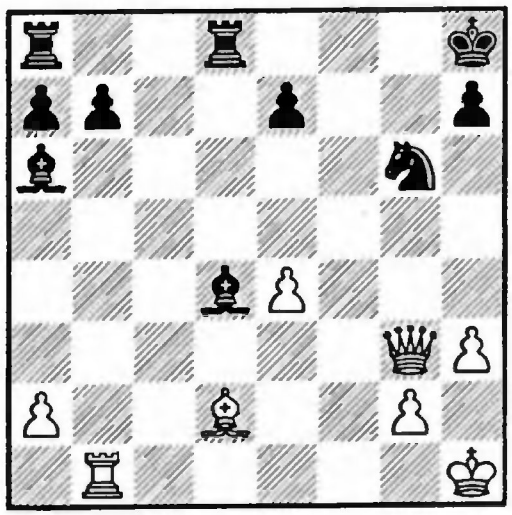
20.♕h4?!

White saw a nice way to win black's queen, but it was already calculated

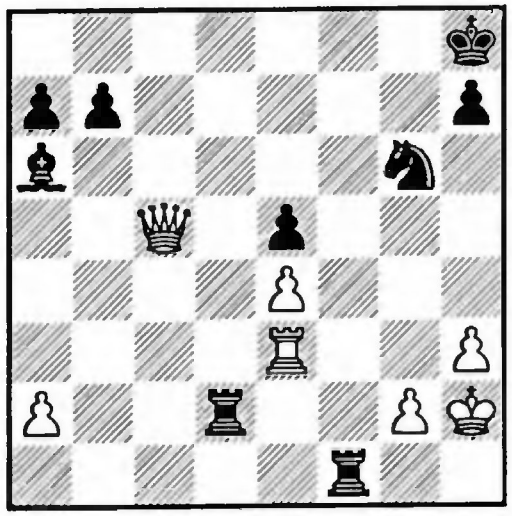
by black.
Most stubborn was 20.♖f5! and here black should continue as in the game: 20... ♘f8 (Worse is 20... e6 21.♕h4 (21.♖f2 ♗h5!) 21... ♘f8 22.♗b4! exf5 23.♗xf8 ♗xd4+ 24.♔h1 h5 25.♗e7→ and position becomes unclear.) 21.gxh7



21... ♖ac8! There is no hurry to take a pawn on h7 because it is preventing all white pieces to continue atack on black king. With his last move black is activating his last piece (♖c8). Now there is a possibility to play few forced moves: (Logical 21...♗xd4+ 22.♔h1 e6 does not work because of strong (22... ♘xh7 23.♖a5!∞) 23.♖g5! (23.♖a5 ♕d3 24.♖b3 ♕c2 25.♕xe2 ♗g7! 26.♖h5 (26.♖xb7 ♖xd2-+) 26... ♖xd2-+ and black is winning.) 23... ♘xh7 24.♖g6∞ and white is still in the game.) 22.♗d5 (Now on 22.♖g5 there is 22... ♗xd4+ 23.♔h1 ♘xh7 24.♖g6 ♖c6!-+ with winning position for black.) 22... ♖d7 (Also possible is 22... e6 23.♗xb7 ♕d3 24.♖f2 ♗xd4∓) 23.♖f7 (23.♖xb7 ♗xd4+ 24.♔h2 ♖xb7 25.♗xb7 ♕xb7 26.♕xe2 e6∓) 23... ♗xd4+ 24.♔h1 ♗h5!∓ and black is better.
20... ♘f8 21.♗c4 ♘xg6 22.♗xa6 ♗xd4+ 23.♔h1 ♗xf1! 24.♕g3 ♗xa6-+



After few concrete moves black won more material and rest of the game was tehnical job which black done on high level.
25.♗c3 ♖ac8 26.♗xd4+ ♖xd4 27.♖e1 ♖f8 28.♕c3 e5 29.♕c5 ♖d2 30.♖e3 ♖f1+ 31.♔h2



31... ♖ff2! 32.♕c8+ ♔g7 33.♖g3 ♗f1 34.♕xb7+ ♔h6 35.♕xa7 ♗xg2 36.♕e3+ ♘f4 37.♕b6+ ♔h5 38.♕f6 ♗xh3+ 39.♔h1 ♖f1+

And white resigned before he got mated. 39... ♖f1+ 40.♖g1 ♗g2+ 41.♔h2 ♗xe4+ 42.♔g3 ♖xg1#

0-1 *[Predojevic,Borki]*

(35) [D90]

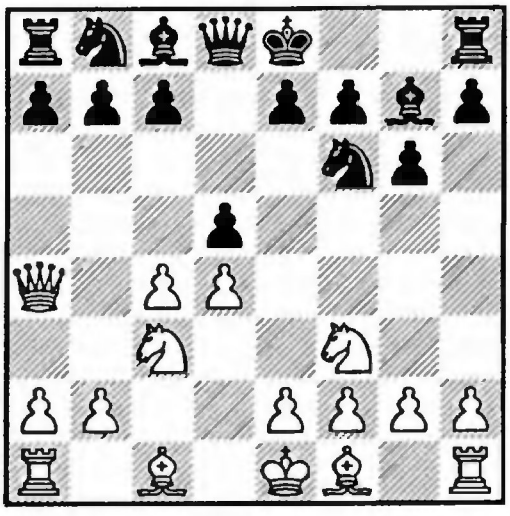
☐ **Sokolov,Ivan (2643)**

■ **Wang Yue (2734)**

Nakhchivan Open Nakhchivan AZE (9), 01.05.2011

A relatively rare Gruenfeld line was played. I have introduced this line in 2003 and have (mostly) obtained a good positions with it. Black ends with a terrible pawn structure in the ending. In general, black still has to find a reliable antidote in this line

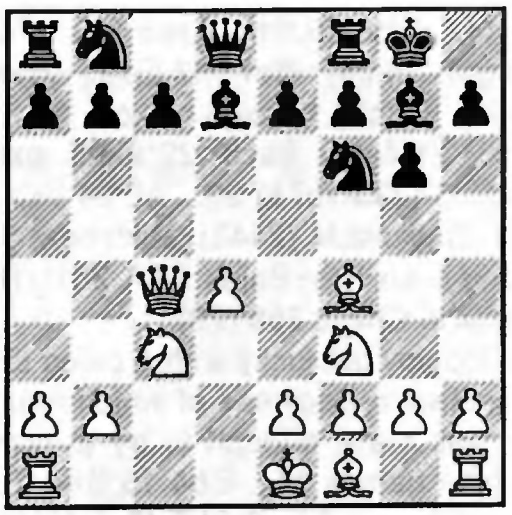
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♗g7 5.♕a4+



5... ♗d7

in recent games black has turned his attention to 5... ♘c6 play may develop 6.♗g5 (greedy 6.♘e5 0-0 7.♘xc6 bxc6 8.♕xc6 needs more practial tests, one turned good for white 8... ♗e6 (8... ♗d7!?) 9.e3 ♖b8 10.♗e2 ♕d6 11.♕xd6 cxd6 12.cxd5 ♘xd5 13.♘xd5 ♗xd5 14.0-0 e5 15.♖d1 exd4 16.exd4 ♖b4 17.b3 ♖xd4 18.♗e3 ♖e4 19.♖ac1 ♖e5 20.♗f1 a5 21.♗f4+− 1-0 Palac,M (2583) −Trbojevic,M (2343)/Sibenik CRO 2011/The Week in Chess 863 (33)) 6... ♘e4 7.cxd5 ♘xc3 8.bxc3 ♕xd5 9.e3 0-0 10.♕b5 ♗e6 11.♘d2! I do not quite understand why white players are refusing to follow on old Kavalek game (was recently tried 11.♗e2 ♕xb5 12.♗xb5 f6 (12... ♖fe8 13.♘d2 a6 14.♗d3 ♘a5 15.♔e2 c5 16.a4 cxd4 17.cxd4 ♗d5 18.f3 e5 19.dxe5 ♗xe5 20.♖ac1 ♗c6 21.♘c4 ♘b3 22.♖b1 ♘c5 23.♘b6 ♖ab8 24.♗c2 ♗c7 25.a5 ♗b5+ 26.♔f2 ♗xb6 27.axb6 ♖bc8 black was better and went on to win in Wojtaszek,R (2726)−Navara,D (2708) / Wijk aan Zee NED 2011/ The Week in Chess 845 (58). Navara demonstrated brilliant execution in a technical endgame and I would recommend to the readers to study it) 13.♗f4 ♖fc8 14.0-0 ♘a5 15.♖fd1 a6 16.♗f1 c5 17.e4 b5 18.d5 ♗d7 19.e5 ♗g4 game was later drawn in Eljanov,P (2755)−Rodshtein,M (2609)/ Copenhagen DEN 2010/The Week in Chess 822 (32)) 11... ♖fe8 12.♕xd5 ♗xd5 13.e4± e5 14.0-0-0 ♗xa2 15.d5 h6 16.♗e3 ♘e7 17.c4 b5 18.cxb5+− 1-0 Kavalek,L−Westerinen,H/Venice 1971/EXT 99 (29)

6.♕b3 dxc4 7.♕xc4 0-0 8.♗f4



Popularity of this move is related to my efforts. I have experimented with this since 2003 (and later some strong players followed)

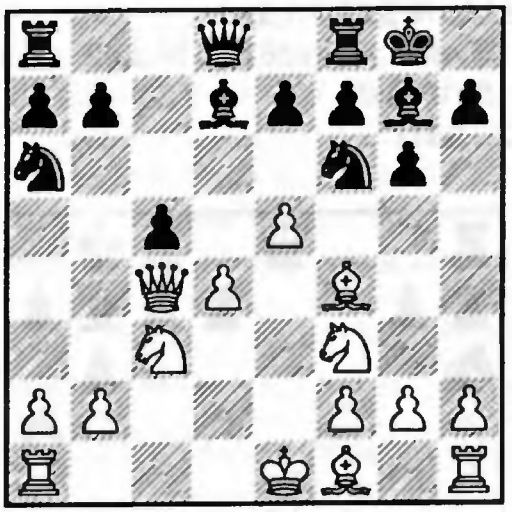
8... ♘a6

Arguably the most popular (though based on current theory likely not equalizing for black) move here. Black also has other options at his disposal

8... c6 9.e4 b5 (9... ♕a5 10.b4 ♕d8 11.a4 ♗e6 12.♕d3 ♘a6 13.♖b1 ♘h5 14.♗e3 f5 15.♘g5 fxe4 16.♕d2 ♗d5 17.♘xd5 ♕xd5 18.♕c2 ♔h8 19.♗c4 ♕f5 20.h3± 1/2-1/2 Sokolov, I (2655)–Howell,D (2614)/London 2009/ CBM 132 (57)) 10.♕b3 ♕a5 11.♗d2 b4 12.♘a4 ♘xe4 13.♗xb4 ♕c7 14.♗d3 ♗e6 15.♕d1 ♗d5 16.0-0 c5! 17.♘xc5 ♘xc5 18.♗xc5 ♘c6= 19.♖e1 ♗xf3 20.♕xf3 ♘xd4 21.♗xd4 ♗xd4 22.♖ac1 ♕d6 23.b3 ♖ad8 24.♖c6 ♕b4 25.♖e2 e6 1/2-1/2 Sokolov, I (2690)–Svidler, P (2733)/ Germany 2004/ CBM 101;

8... ♘c6 9.♖d1! (9.d5 ♘a5 10.♕b4 c6 11.e4 cxd5 12.exd5 ♖c8 13.♗e2 ♗g4∓ 0-1 Tyrtania, M – Komljenovic, D (2410)/St. Ingbert 1987/EXT 97/ calimero (35)) 9... ♗g4 10.d5!± ♘a5 11.♕a4 c5 12.dxc6 ♕b6 13.♗e3 ♕xb2 14.♕xa5 b6 15.♗c1 (15.♘a4! ♕xa2 16.♕b5 a6 17.♕b4 a5 18.♕b5 ♘e4 19.♘d4+–) 15... ♕xc1 16.♖xc1 bxa5 17.e3 ♖ab8 18.♘d4 ♖b6 19.h3 ♗c8 20.♗b5 a6 21.♗a4± 1/2-1/2 Sokolov,I (2677)–McShane,L (2592)/Istanbul TUR 2003/calimero (53)

9.e4 c5 10.e5



10... ♘h5

10... ♗e6 leads to a complicated play. It is (surprisingly) tried very little in practice, though does not seem to equalize for black. I would give some lines 11.exf6 ♗xc4 12.fxg7 ♗xf1

a) 12... ♔xg7 13.♗xc4 cxd4 (13... ♕c8 14.♘e2 (14.0-0-0 ♖d8) 14... cxd4 15.♖c1 d3 16.♗xd3 ♕d8 17.♘ed4±) 14.0-0-0 (14.♗e5+ f6 15.♗xd4 e5 16.♗e3 ♘b4; 14.♖d1 ♕a5 15.♖xd4 ♖ad8) 14... ♕a5 15.♖xd4 ♖fd8 (15... ♖ac8 16.♖e1 e6 17.♔b1±) 16.♖e1 (16.♖hd1) 16... ♖xd4 17.♗e5+ ♔g8 18.♗xd4±;

b) 12... ♖e8 13.♗xc4 cxd4 14.0-0-0; 13.gxf8♕+ ♔xf8 (13... ♕xf8 14.♔xf1 cxd4 15.♘xd4± ♕c8 16.♘de2 ♕f5 17.♖d1 e5 18.♗e3 ♘b4 19.h4 ♕e6 20.b3 ♘c2 21.♖h3± 1-0 Horvath, C (2546)–Flumbort,A (2493)/Budapest 2004/ CBM 103 (37)) 14.♖xf1 ♕c8 (14... cxd4 15.0-0-0) 15.0-0-0 ♕f5 16.♗h6+ ♔g8 17.dxc5

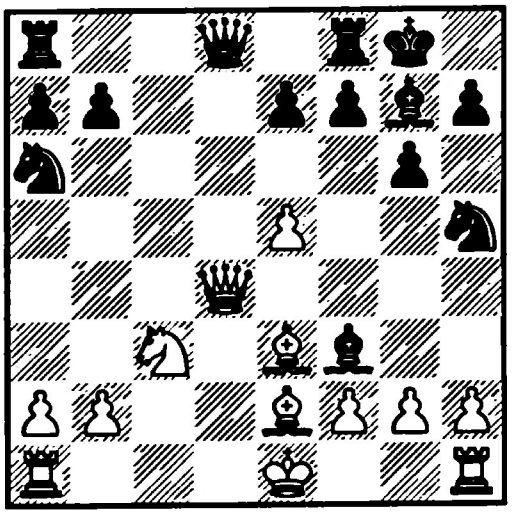
11.♗e3 cxd4

11... ♗g4 12.dxc5 ♗xf3 13.gxf3 ♗xe5 14.f4±

12.♕xd4 ♗c6 13.♗e2

13.♕xd8? ♖fxd8∓ 14.♗e2 ♘b4 15.♖c1? ♗xf3

13... ♗xf3

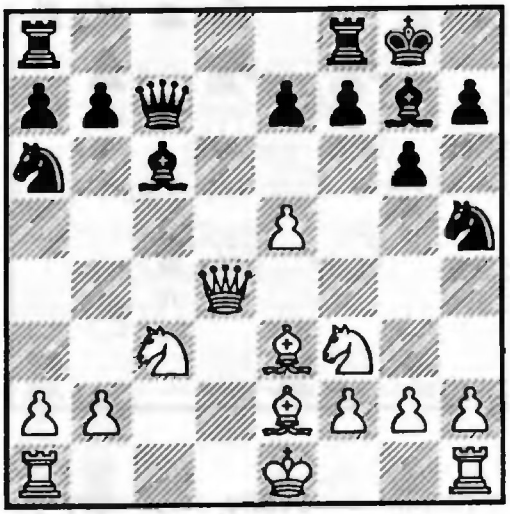


This whole idea for white to sacrifice pawn on e5 and play for compensation based on white strong bishop pair, pressure on black queenside pawns, temporary misplaced ♘h5, belongs to your truly and has seen the late of the day in 2003 in my game against my once biggest nemessis Loek Van Wely, this game continued 13... ♕a5 14.0-0 ♗xf3

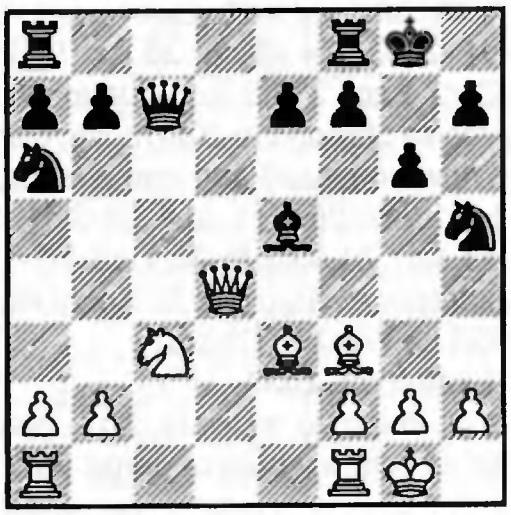
a) white is clearly better in the case of 14... ♖fd8 15.♕h4 ♗xe5 (15... ♘b4 16.g4) 16.b4! ♕c7 17.♘xe5 ♕xe5 18.b5 ♕xc3 19.bxc6 ♕xc6 20.♗f3 ♕d6 21.♖ab1 ♖ac8 22.♗xh5 gxh5 23.♖b5 (23.♖xb7±) 23... h6 24.♖xb7± 0-1 Zhukova,N (2443)–Mikhalevski,V (2584)/ Aix-les-Bains FRA 2011/The Week in Chess 855 (29);

b) Topalov got lucky with a piece sac, objective correctness of which nobody was brave enough to try to prove in later games 14... ♘b4 15.♕h4 ♘c2 16.g4 ♘xe3 17.fxe3 ♗h6 18.♘d1 ♔h8 19.gxh5 ♖g8 it is difficult to believe that black has enough for the piece objectively, but fortune favours the brave 20.♔f2 ♖ad8 21.hxg6 ♗xf3 22.♔xf3 ♖xg6 23.♕e4 f5 24.♕c4 ♕d2 25.♖c1 ♖c6 26.♕h4 ♕xc1 27.♕xe7 ♖g8 28.e6 ♕d2 29.♔f2 f4 0-1 Jakovenko,D (2742) – Topalov, V (2813)/ Nanjing 2009/CBM 133; 15.♗xf3 ♗xe5 16.♕d5 (16.♕e4 ♘f6 17.♕xb7 e6 looks about equal; 16.♕d7! should be improvement, giving white an opening advantage) 16...♕xd5 17.♘xd5 ♖fe8 18.♖ac1 (18.♘c3 ♘b4; 18.♖ad1 e6 19.♘c3 ♖e7 20.♖fe1 f6) 18... e6 19.♘c3 ♖e7 this leads (more or less by force) to a drawish outcome (black could have become ambitious and gain advantage with 19... ♘b4! 20.♗xb7 ♖ab8 21.♗e4 f5 22.♗b1 ♘f4 23.♗xa7 ♖b7 24.♗e3 ♘fd3 25.♗xd3 ♘xd3 26.♖c2 ♖xb2 27.♖xb2 ♘xb2) 20.a3 ♗f4 21.♗xh5 ♗xe3 22.fxe3 gxh5 23.♘e4 ♘c7 24.♘f6+ ♔h8 25.♘xh5 ♘e8 26.♖fd1 ♘g7 27.♘g3 ♘e8= 1/2-1/2 Sokolov,I (2695) –Van Wely,L (2654)/ Belgium 2003/CBM 097 ext (37);

13... ♕c7

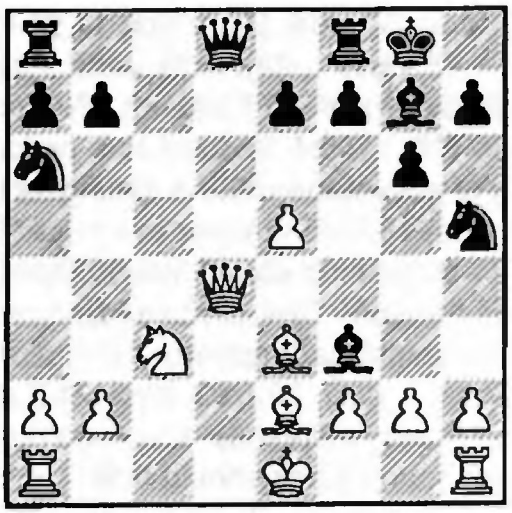


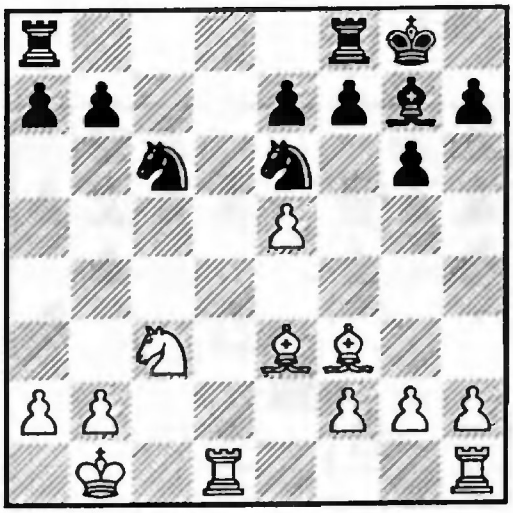
a) 14.0-0 ♗xf3 15.♗xf3 ♗xe5 white now plays very precisely, reaching (more or less by force) a winning endgame. Black knight on h5 does not get back in play, black queenside pawns are easy target, black extra pawn material advantage is of a very temporary nature. This position is very difficult for black and he is well advised to keep away from this in future 16.♕e4! (other white moves are far less clear)



a1) 16.♘d5 ♗xd4! (16... ♕d6 17.♕h4↑ e6? 18.♘e7+ ♔g7 19.♗xh5 ♗f6 20.♗h6+ ♔xh6 21.♕xf6+-) 17.♘xc7 ♖ad8 (17... ♘xc7 18.♗xd4 is a typical kind of advantage white is aiming for in this line) 18.♘d5 (it is always possible to do something stupid like 18.♗xd4? ♖xd4 19.♘b5? ♖b4 20.♘xa7 ♖a8 and white knight is trapped) 18... ♗xe3 19.♘xe7+ ♔g7 20.fxe3 ♖fe8 21.♘d5 f5 22.♖ac1 white has some advantage, though black should hold;

a2) 16.♕h4 ♗xc3! naturally, black should not allow white knight to jump to d5 here 17.bxc3 ♘g7 18.♖ab1 ♘f5; 16... ♘c5 (16... ♗xc3 17.♖ac1! ♘f6 18.♕h4± with Rxc3 to follow) 17.♕b4! well played. white is excerting (due to powerful bishop pair) strong pressure on black queenside pawns. Black does not get time to bring his Nh5 back in play (17.♕h4? is not good due to 17... ♗xc3! (17... ♘f6? 18.♘b5 ♕b6 19.a4± a6 20.♖ac1 ♖ac8 21.b4) 18.♖ac1 (18.bxc3 ♘g7) 18... ♗f6 19.♕g4 ♕d7 20.♖xc5 ♕xg4 21.♗xg4 b6 22.♖c7 e6 and black is better) 17... ♘d3 18.♕b3 ♗xc3 19.♕xc3 ♕xc3 20.bxc3 a typical kind of advantage white is aiming for in this line. White bishop pair is powerful, black is simply going to lose his queenside pawns and his position is soon to collapse 20... ♖ac8 21.♗xa7 ♖xc3 22.a4! black "b" pawn cannot be saved and as a result white "a" pawn is going to queen 22... ♖d8 23.♖fb1 ♘hf4 24.a5 e5 25.♗e3 ♘c5 26.♗xc5 ♖xc5 27.♗xb7 and white soon won in Feller,S (2657) -Jansa,V (2513)/ Aix-les-Bains FRA 2011/The Week in Chess 855 (35)





b) not clear is 14.♕h4 after 14... ♗xf3 (14... ♗xe5 15.♘xe5 ♕xe5 16.0-0-0 ♘c7 17.♖he1 ♘e6 was played in Grigoriants,S (2553)-Esen,B (2287)/ Warsaw 2005/ CBM 108 (62)) 15.♗xf3 ♗xe5 16.0-0 ♗xc3! 17.bxc3 ♘g7;

c) also good for white is 14.♖c1! ♗xf3 15.♗xf3 ♗xe5 16.♕e4 ♘c5 17.♕b1 and white has strong initiative. Black position can quickly collapse, e.g. 17... ♘f4 18.0-0 ♘cd3 (18... ♘fd3? 19.♘d5 ♕d6 20.b4 ♘xc1 21.♗xc5 ♘e2+ 22.♔h1 ♕e6 (22... ♕a6 23.♘xe7+ ♔h8 24.♕e1 ♘d4 25.♗xb7+-) 23.♖e1 b6 24.♖xe2 bxc5 25.♕e1 f6 26.♘c7+-) 19.♘d5 ♕b8 20.♘xe7+ ♔g7 21.g3! ♘h3+ (21... ♘xc1 22.gxf4 ♗xf4 23.♕xc1) 22.♔g2 ♘xc1 23.♕xc1 ♕d6 24.♗h6+ ♔h8 25.♗xf8 ♖xf8 26.♘d5+-;

14.♗xf3 ♕xd4 15.♗xd4 ♘b4 16.0-0-0 ♘f4 17.♔b1 ♘e6 18.♗e3 ♘c6

Technically a novelty, (not very succeful one). Wang was spending a lot of time, so I doubt this was result of home preparation and more looks like an over the board decision. In the resulting position black queenside pawn structure is going to become irreparably damaged, so white would have a clear longterm advantage in the endgame

known was (which also does not equalize) 18... ♗xe5 19.♖d7 ♘c6 20.♖hd1 (white play can be improved here with 20.♖xb7! ♘cd4 21.♗d5) 20... ♖ab8 21.♘a4 ♖fc8 22.♖c1 ♘ed4 23.♗xd4 ♘xd4 24.♖xc8+ ♖xc8 25.♗xb7 ♖c7 26.♖xc7 ♗xc7 27.h3 ♗d6 due to white imprecise play on the 20th move, black has now equalized and game is soon to be drawn 28.♔c1 ♗b4 29.♔d1 e5 30.a3 ♗e7 31.♘c3 f5 32.♘e2 1/2-1/2 Riazantsev,A-Sutovsky,E/ Sochi RUS 2005/The Week in Chess

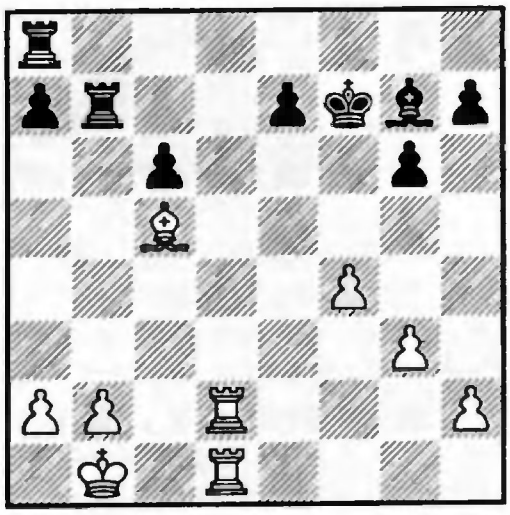
19.♗xc6 bxc6 20.f4

Now in order to activate ♗g7, black pawn structure would undergo further damage

20... f6 21.exf6 ♗xf6 22.♘e4 ♗g7 23.g3 ♖fb8 24.♖d2

White task in this position is to exchange minor pieces. With minor pieces exchanged, black would not have even a glimpse of counterplay and his pawn structure weaknesses would be strongly felt

24... ♖b4 25.♘c5 ♘xc5 26.♗xc5 ♖b7 27.♖hd1 ♔f7



28.♗d4!

Steering the game into a won rook endgame

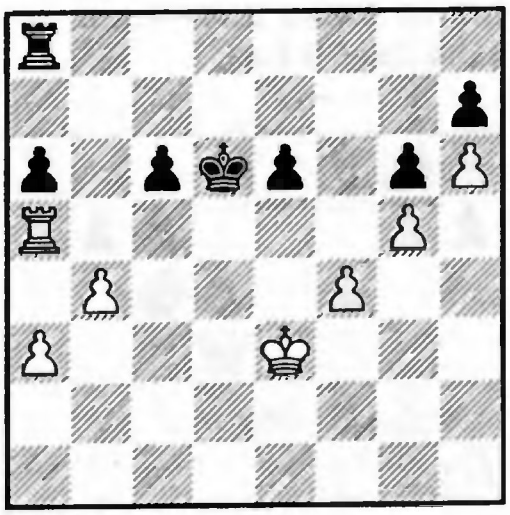
28... ♖d8 29.♗xg7 ♖xd2 30.♖xd2 ♔xg7 31.♖c2 ♖c7 32.♖c5±

Black pawn structure weaknesses have remained. White rook is dominating black, while black does not have a slightest chance of a counterplay. It may well be that there was also another way to execute, however may plan choosen looks sound

32... ♔f6 33.♔c2 ♔e6 34.b4 ♔d7 35.♔c3 ♔d6 36.a3 e6 37.♔c4 a6 38.♖a5 ♖a7 39.♔d4 ♖a8 40.♔e4 ♖a7 41.g4 ♖a8 42.h4 ♖a7 43.g5

White would now advance his "h" pawn to h6 in order to have a won endgame once he collects black h7 pawn

43... ♖a8 44.♔f3 ♖f8 45.♔g4 ♖a8 46.h5 ♖a7 47.h6 ♖a8 48.♔g3 ♖a7 49.♔f3 ♖a8 50.♔e3



50... ♖a7 51.a4 ♖b7 52.♖xa6 ♖xb4 53.♖a7 e5 54.♖xh7 exf4+ 55.♔f3 ♖xa4 56.♖g7 ♔e5 57.♖xg6 ♔f5 58.h7 ♖a3+ 59.♔f2 ♖a2+ 60.♔e1 ♖a1+ 61.♔d2 ♖a2+ 62.♔c3 ♖a3+ 63.♔b2 ♔xg6 64.h8♕ 1-0 *[Sokolov I.]*

(36) [E04]

□ Le Quang Liem (2687)

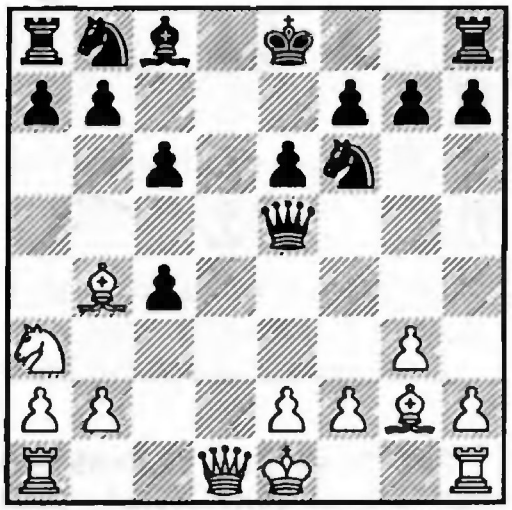
■ David,Alb (2593)

TCh-FRA Top 12 2011 Mulhouse FRA (2.2), 27.05.2011

In this game we will see one of very sharp lines in Catalan system. Not very popular but very interesting. Le Quang could use new plan ♘c2 but he decides to follow the older games. David Alberto played the important and correct 13... h6 and he

was probably ready to improve in some moment the game Iskushny – Yemelin, Petersburg,2010.16.♖ab1 was very risky for white but David Alberto fix draw after with 20... ♖b6 when he had few better options.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.♗g2 dxc4 5.♘f3 c6 6.♘e5 ♗b4+ 7.♗d2 ♕xd4 8.♗xb4 ♕xe5 9.♘a3



9.♘d2?!

a) 9... b5 10.♗c3 ♕c5 (10... ♕d6 11.a4 ♗a6 12.0-0 0-0 13.♗xf6 gxf6 14.♘e4 ♕xd1 15.♖fxd1 bxa4 16.♖xa4 ♗b5=) 11.0-0 e5 (11... 0-0 12.♗xf6 gxf6 13.♘e4 ♕e7 14.♕d2 ♔g7∞) 12.♘f3 ♘bd7 (12... 0-0 13.♗xe5 ♘e4 14.♕d4 ♕xd4 15.♘xd4 f5 16.f3 ♘f6 17.a4 ♗d7 18.f4 ♘e4 19.g4 g6 20.gxf5 gxf5 21.♗xe4 fxe4 22.♔f2±) 13.♘xe5 ♘xe5 14.♗xe5 ♕xe5 15.♗xc6+ ♗d7 16.♗xa8 0-0 17.♗f3 ♕xb2∞

b) 9... ♕xb2? 10.♖b1 ♕d4 11.e3 ♕d3 12.♘xc4 ♕xd1+ 13.♖xd1 ♘a6 14.♗a3 c5 15.♘d6+ ♔e7 16.♘xc8+ ♖hxc8 17.♗xb7 ♘b4 18.♗xc8 ♖xc8 19.♔e2±;

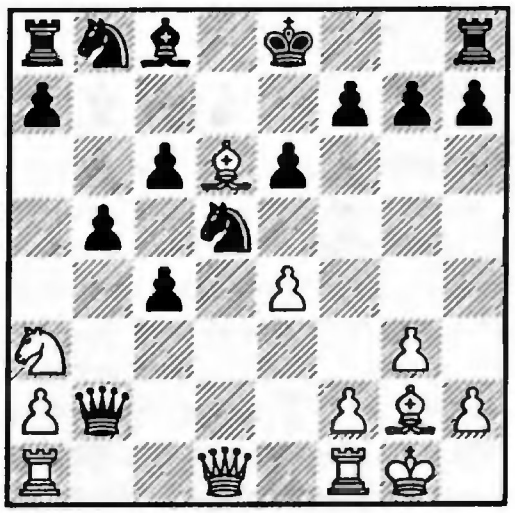
c) 9... ♕b5 10.♗a3 ♘bd7 (10... c5 11.♖c1 0-0 12.♘xc4⩲) 11.0-0 ♘b6 12.b3⩲ X♔e8;

9... b5 10.♗d6

10.f4 ♕c7 11.♘xb5 cxb5 12.♗xa8 ♗b7 13.♗xb7 ♕xb7 14.0-0 ♘c6 15.♗c5 ♘e4⩲;

10.♗c3 ♕c5 11.♕d2 a5 12.♗d4 ♕b4 13.♕xb4 axb4 14.♘xb5 0-0=

10... ♕xb2 11.0-0 ♘d5 12.e4



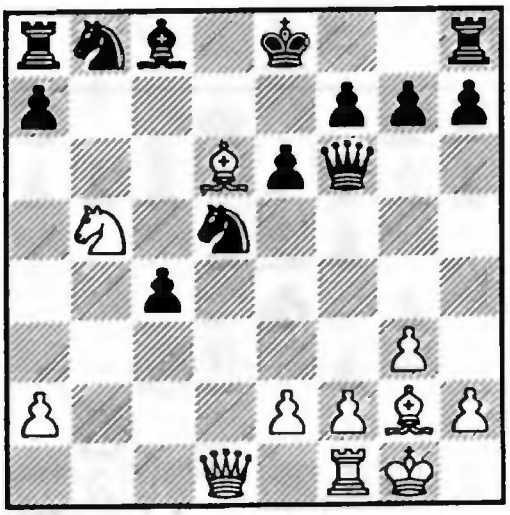
Logical move.White has 3 pawns less and should play very quickly and actively. In my opinion it was a good moment to improve the line.

12.♖b1 Idea of this move is a sacrifice on b5 or c4 but is not enough to get anything more than an equal position.

12... ♕f6

a)13.♘xc4 ♘c3 (13... bxc4 14.♕a4 e5 15.♖xb8 ♖xb8 16.♗xb8 0-0 17.♗xa7 ♗e6 18.♗c5 ♖b8 19.♖c1∞) 14.♕c2 bxc4 15.♖xb8 ♖xb8 16.♗xb8 0-0 17.♗d6 ♖d8 18.♗c7 ♖f8 19.♗a5 ♘d5 20.♕xc4 ♕e5 21.♕c5 ♕xe2 22.♗xd5 cxd5 23.♗b4 ♖e8 24.♕c6 ♖d8 25.♕c7 (25.♗e7 ♗a6-+) 25... ♖e8 26.♕c6=;

b) 13.♖xb5?! too optimistic 13... cxb5 14.♘xb5



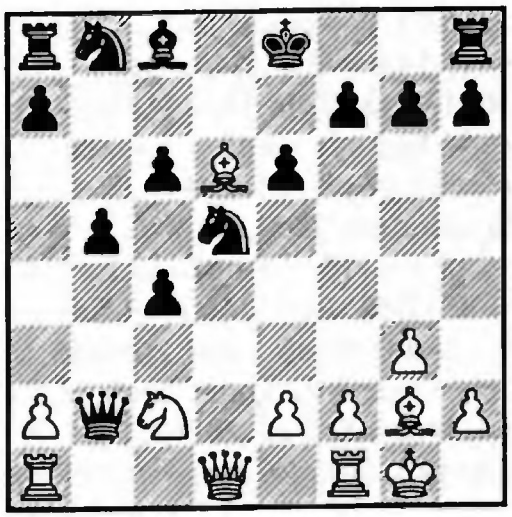
b1) 14... ♗b7 15.♗a3 (15.♗c5 ♘d7 16.♘d6+ ♔f8 17.♘e4+ ♘xc5 18.♘xf6 gxf6 19.♕d4 ♖c8∞) 15... ♗c6 16.♘d6+ ♔d7 17.♘xc4 (17.e4 ♘c3 18.♕d2 ♕d4!) 17... ♕c3 18.e4 ♕xc4 19.exd5 exd5 20.♕h5⩱;

b2) 14... a6 15.♗xd5 exd5 16.♘c7+ ♔d7 17.♗f4 ♕xf4 (17... ♗b7 18.♘xd5 ♕d8 19.♕d4+−) 18.gxf4 ♔xc7 19.♕xd5 ♘c6 20.♕xf7+ ♗d7 21.♕xc4±;

b3) 14... ♗a6 15.♗xd5 exd5 16.♘c7+ ♔d7 17.♗f4 ♔c8 18.♘xa8 ♖d8 19.♘c7 g5 20.♘xa6 gxf4 21.♘xb8 ♔xb8 22.♕c2 ♔a8∓;

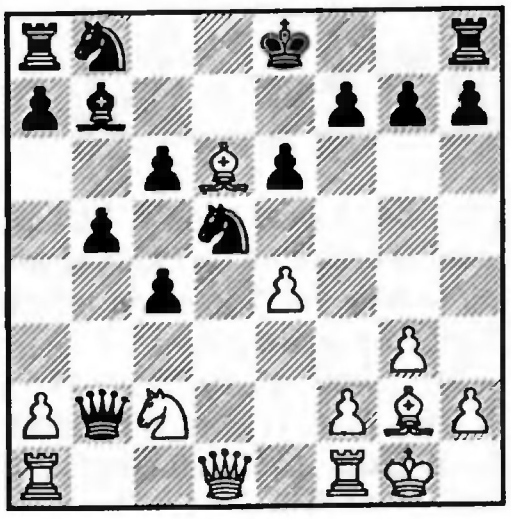
c) 13.♘xb5? cxb5 14.♗xd5 exd5 15.♕xd5 ♗d7∓;

12.♘c2!?

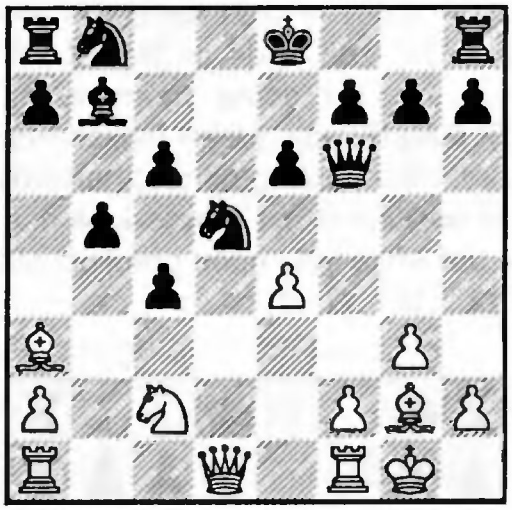


Very interesting and probably playable. White does not hurry with e4 and first improves the position of their knight.Now also white has extra ideas like ♗a3, ♘d4 or ♕d2 if black plays ♘c3 in some moment. 12... ♕f6! Great!Black queen makes move again! Idea back to d8 and helps defend position.Other moves look natural, but white gets good practical play.

a) 12... ♗b7 13.e4!



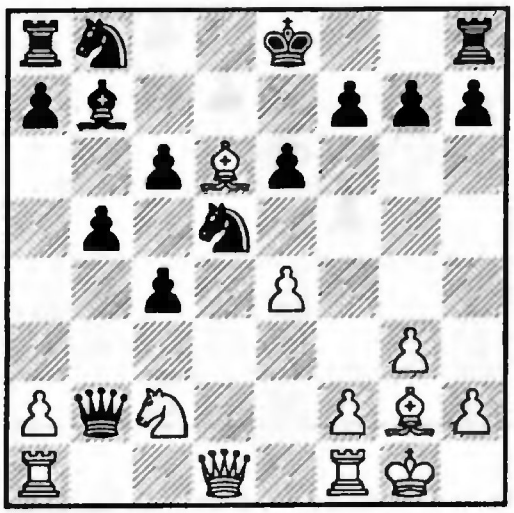
(13.♗a3!? also possible 13... ♕f6 (13... ♕e5?! 14.e4 ♘f6 (14... ♘e7) 15.♗d6 ♕h5 16.♗f3 ♕g6 17.♘d4 ♘a6 (17... ♘xe4 18.♖e1 ♘xd6 19.♘xe6 ♔d7 20.♘c5+ ♔c8 21.♗g4+ f5 22.♗h5 ♕f6 23.♖e6 ♕c3 24.♕xd6 ♕xa1+ 25.♔g2+−; 17... ♘bd7 18.♖e1 ♘b6 19.♘f5 ♖d8 20.♕d4→) 18.♖e1 ♖d8 (18... 0-0-0 19.e5 ♖xd6 20.exd6 ♕d3 21.♕xd3 cxd3 22.♘xc6 ♗xc6 23.♗xc6 ♘b4 24.♗xb5 ♘c2 25.♖ac1+−) 19.e5 ♕d3 (19... ♘d5 20.♗e4 ♕h6 21.♗xd5 cxd5 22.♘xb5 f5 23.♖b1±) 20.♕xd3 cxd3 21.♗xc6+ ♗xc6 22.♘xc6 d2 23.♖ed1 ♖d7 24.♘xa7 ♖xa7 25.exf6 gxf6 26.♖xd2±) 14.e4



a1) 14... b4 15.exd5 bxa3 16.♖b1 cxd5 17.♖xb7 0-0 18.♘b4 a5 19.♕a4± white going to play ♘xd5 in some moment and get very active play

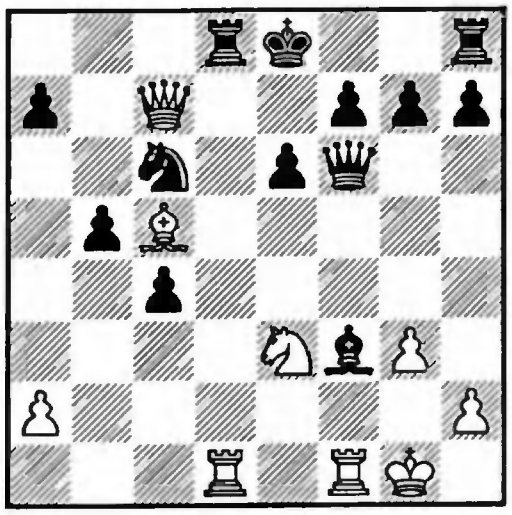
a2) 14... ♘b6 15.e5 ♕d8 16.♘d4 ♘d5 (16... ♘a6 17.♕g4 ♕d7 18.♖fd1 ♘d5 19.♗xd5 cxd5 20.♕xg7 0-0-0 21.♗d6→) 17.♗d6 ♘d7 18.♕g4 ♕b6 19.♘xe6 fxe6 20.♕xe6+ ♔d8 21.♕f7;

a3) 14... ♘c3 15.♕d6 ♘d7 16.♕c7 ♖b8 17.♖fd1 ♘xd1 18.♖xd1 ♗c8 19.♖xd7 ♗xd7 20.♕xb8+ ♕d8 21.♕xa7 e5 22.♘e3±;)



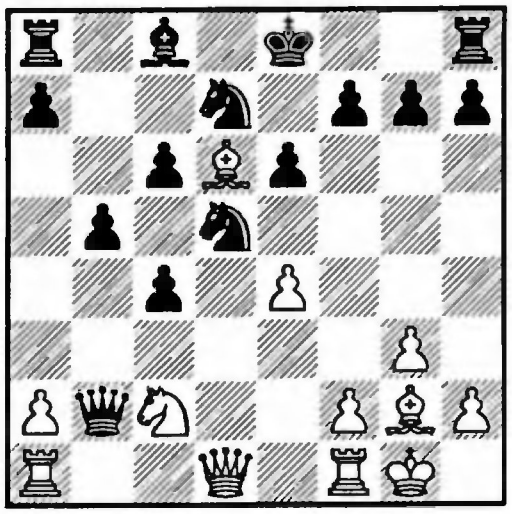
13... ♘c3 (13... ♘b6 14.♘d4 c5 15.♗xc5 ♘8d7 16.♖b1 ♕xa2 17.♖a1 ♕xa1 18.♕xa1 ♘xc5 19.♘xb5 0-0 20.♘d6±; 13... ♘e7 14.♕d2→) 14.♕d2 c5 15.♗xc5! (15.♕g5 ♘c6 16.e5 ♘e2+ 17.♔h1 h6 18.♕xg7 0-0-0 19.♕xf7 ♖d7 20.♕g6 ♘cd4 (20... ♕c3!?∞) 21.♘xd4 ♘xd4 22.♗xc5 ♗xg2+ 23.♔xg2 ♕c2 24.♕f6 ♖hd8 25.♗xd4 ♕e4+ 26.♔g1 ♕xd4 27.♕xe6 ♔c7∞ White has pawn up but position is totaly unclear.Looks very similar to Botvinik line.) 15... ♘xe4 16.♗xe4 ♗xe4 17.♕d6 ♘c6 18.♖ad1 ♖d8 19.♕c7 ♕f6 20.f3 ♗xf3 21.♘e3

Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs



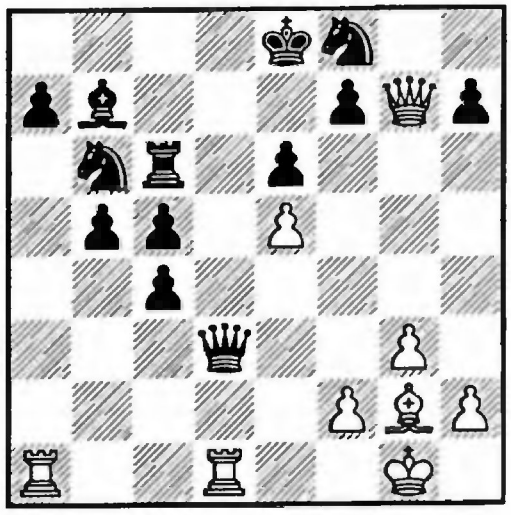
Amazing position. Normally without any engines I could say that this position must be a very easily wining one for white because all 5 white pieces are attacking black king, who is still in the center. (21.♘b4 ♘xb4 22.♗xb4 ♖xd1 23.♖xd1 ♗d5=) 21... ♖d3 22.♘d5 ♗xd5 23.♖xd3 cxd3 (23... ♕e5 24.♗d6 ♕e2 25.♕xf7+ ♔d8 26.♖xd5 ♕e3+ 27.♔g2 ♕e4+ 28.♔h3 ♕xd5 29.♕c7+ ♔e8 30.♕xg7 ♕h5+ 31.♔g2 ♕d5+ 32.♔g1 ♕xd6 33.♕xh8+ ♔d7 34.♕xh7+ ♘e7 35.♕e4±) 24.♖xf6 gxf6 25.♔f2±;

b) 12... ♘d7 13.e4



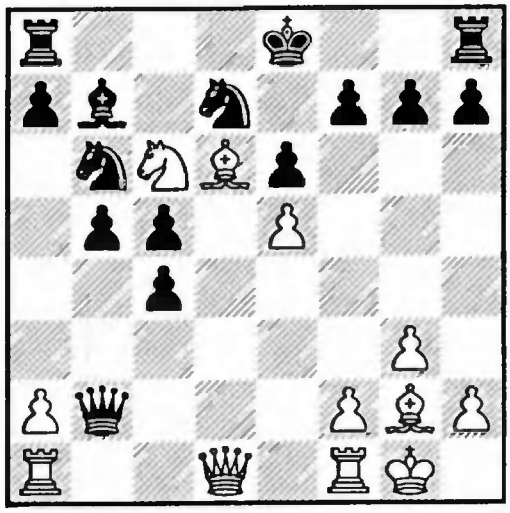
b1) 13... ♘5b6 14.♘d4 (14.a4!?↑) 14... c5 (14... ♗b7 15.e5 ♘d5 16.♗xd5!±) 15.♘c6 (15.♘xe6 fxe6 16.e5 h5∞) 15... ♗b7 (15... ♗a6 16.♗xc5!+−) 16.e5 (16.♘a5 ♗a6 17.e5 ♖c8 18.♕g4 ♘xe5 19.♕g5 ♘g6 20.♗c6+ ♖xc6 21.♘xc6 ♕f6 22.♕xc5 ♕f3 23.♘a5 h5 24.h4±)

b11) 16... ♖c8 17.♖b1 ♕xa2 (17... ♕a3 18.♕g4 (18.♘e7 ♗xg2 19.♔xg2 a6!? 20.♕g4 ♘xe5 21.♕xg7 ♕f3+ 22.♔g1 ♘g6 23.♘xg6 hxg6 24.♕xh8+ ♔d7 25.♕e5 f6 26.♕f4 ♕xf4 27.♗xf4 b4∞) 18... ♖xc6 19.♕xg7 ♖f8 20.♕g5 ♘c8 (20... f6 21.♕g7 ♖xd6 22.exd6 ♖f7 23.♕g8+ ♘f8 24.♖be1 e5 25.f4+−) 21.♗xf8 ♘xf8 22.♖fd1 ♘d7 23.♕g8+ ♘f8 24.♖d2 c3 25.♖d7 ♔xd7 26.♕xf7+ ♘e7 27.♖d1+ ♔c7 28.♕xe7+ ♔b6 29.♕d8+ ♔a6 30.♗xc6 ♗xc6 31.♕c8+ ♗b7 32.♖d6+ ♔a5 33.♕xb7 c2 34.♕xa7+ ♔b4 35.♖d4+ c4 36.♕e7+ ♔a4 37.♕a7+=) 18.♕g4 ♖xc6 19.♕xg7 ♖f8 20.♕g5 (20.♖a1 ♕d2 21.♗xf8 ♘xf8 22.♖fd1 ♕e2 23.♖e1 ♕d3 24.♖ed1



24... ♖c7! 25.♖xd3 cxd3 26.♖xa7 d2 27.♕g4 ♖d7 28.♕d1 ♗xg2 29.♖xd7

♘fxd7 30.♔xg2 ♘c4-+) 20... f6 21.♕g7 ♖xd6 22.exd6 ♖f7 23.♕g8+ ♘f8 24.♖fe1 c3 (24... e5 25.♗xb7 ♖xb7 26.f4→) 25.♖a1 ♕c4 26.♖xa7 e5 27.♗xb7 ♖xb7 28.♕xc4 ♘xc4 29.♖xb7 ♘xd6∞;



b12) 16... ♗xc6 17.♗xc6 ♖c8 18.♖b1 ♕d4 19.♕f3 ♕d3 20.♗xd7+ ♘xd7 21.♕b7+−;

b13) 16... g6 17.♖b1 ♕xa2 18.♖xb5 c3 (18... ♖c8 19.♘b4 cxb4 20.♗xb7 ♖d8 21.♕d4±) 19.♘b4 ♕c4 20.♗xb7 ♕xb5 21.♘a6 ♘d5 22.♗xd5 ♖c8 23.♕g4 exd5 24.♕h4 f6 25.♖e1 ♖c6 26.exf6+ ♔d8 27.f7+ ♔c8 28.♘xc5 ♖xc5 29.♕d4+−;

b2) 13... ♘e7 14.♘d4 e5 (14... c5 15.♘f5 exf5 16.exf5 ♖b8 17.♖e1 0-0 18.♗xe7 ♖b6 19.♗xf8 ♘xf8 20.♕d5±; 14... ♗b7 15.e5±) 15.♘f5 ♘xf5 16.exf5 ♗b7 17.♕g4 0-0-0 (17... ♕d4 18.♕xg7 ♕xd6 19.♕xh8+ ♔e7 20.♕xh7 ♘f6 21.♕h4 ♕d4 22.♕h6 ♖d8 23.♖ae1±; 17... ♖g8 18.♕h4 f6 19.a4!+−) 18.♕xg7 f6 19.a4 a6 20.axb5 axb5 21.♖fd1→;

b3) 13... ♘5f6? 14.e5 ♘d5 15.♖b1 ♕c3 16.♘b4±;

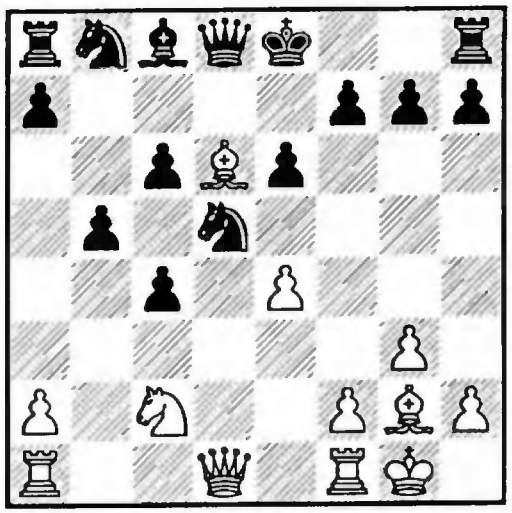
c) 12... ♗d7 13.e4 ♘b6 14.e5 ♘c8 15.a4 ♘xd6 16.♕xd6 ♕xc2 17.♖fd1 f6 18.♗xc6+−;

d) 12... a5 13.e4 ♘c3 (13... ♘b4 14.♘xb4 axb4 15.♗xb8 ♖xb8 16.♕d6+−) 14.♕d2 b4 15.♕g5 ♘e2+ 16.♔h1 ♕f6 17.♕c5 ♘c3 18.e5 ♕d8 19.a3↑ looks very bad for black 19... b3 20.♕xc4 ♘b5 21.♕xb3 ♘xd6 22.♖fd1 0-0 23.♖xd6 ♕c7 24.♘d4±;

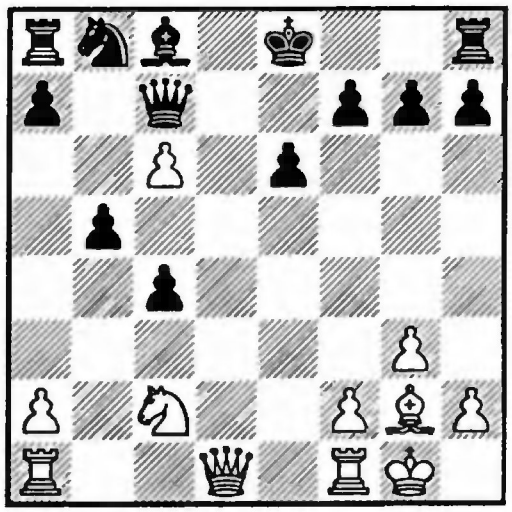
e) 12... f5?! 13.e4!? fxe4 14.♗xe4 ♕f6 15.♖e1 ♘d7 16.♘d4→ e5 17.♘xc6 ♘c3 18.♕d4!+−;

13.e4

a) 13... ♕d8!



14.exd5 (14.♗xb8 ♖xb8 15.exd5 cxd5 16.♕d4 0-0 17.♕xa7 ♕d6) 14... ♕xd6 15.dxc6 ♕c7



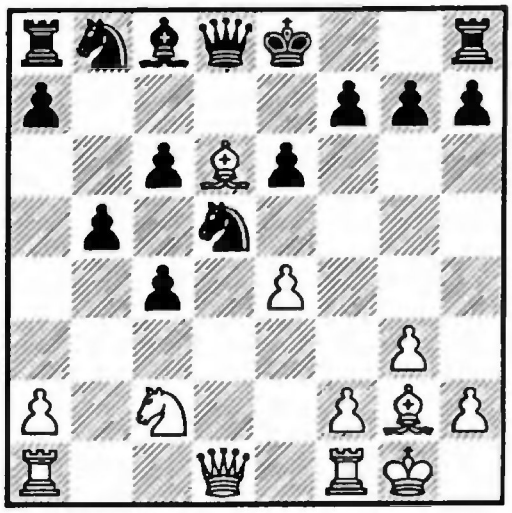
Maybe critical position. Black got material advantage but c6 pawn is totally paralizing his development. (15... ♕xd1 16.♖fxd1 ♘a6 17.c7 ♘xc7 18.♗xa8 ♘xa8 19.a4±)

a1) 16.♕d4! 0-0 (16... ♘xc6 17.♕xg7 ♖f8 18.a4 b4 19.♘xb4 ♗b7 20.♖fe1 0-0-0 21.♘xc6 ♗xc6 22.♗xc6 ♕xc6 23.♖ac1 ♔b7 24.♕xh7 ♔a8 25.♕e4±) 17.♕c5 ♗d7 (17... ♘d7? 18.♕e7+−; 17... a6 18.a4±; 17... e5 18.♕xb5 a6 19.♕xc4 ♗e6 20.♕a4±) 18.a4 bxa4 19.♘d4 (⌓19.♖xa4 e5 20.♖xc4 ♗e6 21.♖c3⩱) 19... ♘xc6 20.♘xc6 ♖ac8 (20... ♗xc6 21.♕xc6 ♕xc6 22.♗xc6 ♖ac8 23.♗xa4±) 21.♖fc1 ♗xc6 22.♖xc4 ♗xg2 23.♕xc7 ♖xc7 24.♖xc7 ♗d5 25.♖xa4±

a2) 16.♘d4 a6 17.a4 b4 18.♕e1 0-0 19.♕xb4 e5 20.♘b5 axb5 21.axb5 ♖xa1 22.♖xa1 ♕b6 23.♕xc4 ♗e6 24.♗d5 ♗xd5 25.♕xd5 ♖d8 26.♕xe5 ♘xc6 27.bxc6 ♕xc6=;

a3) 16.♕h5 ♘xc6! 17.♕c5 ♗b7 18.♘d4 (18.a4 b4 19.♘xb4 ♖c8 20.♕xc4 ♘xb4 21.♕xb4 ♗xg2 22.♔xg2 ♕c5=) 18... a6 19.♗xc6+ ♗xc6 20.♕xc6+ ♕xc6 21.♘xc6 ♖c8 22.♘d4 ♔e7∞;

a4) 16.a4 b4 17.♘xb4 0-0 18.♕e2 a5 19.♘c2 ♘xc6 20.♕xc4 ♗a6 21.♕xc6 ♕xc6 22.♗xc6 ♖ac8 23.♗b5 ♗xb5 24.axb5 ♖xc2=

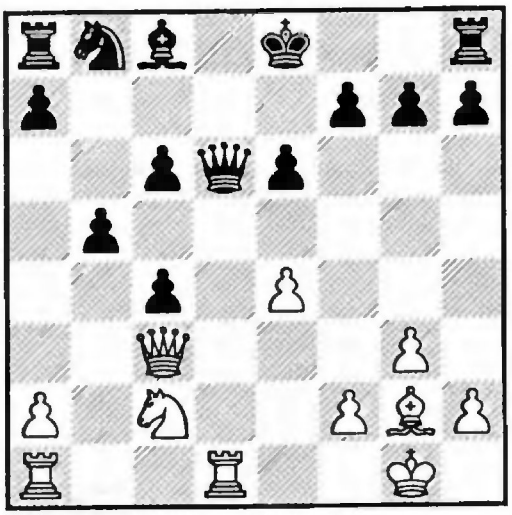


b) 13... ♘c3 14.♕d2 ♕d8 15.♕xc3 ♕xd6 16.♖fd1

b1) 16... ♕c5 17.♕xg7 ♖f8 18.e5 ♘d7 19.♘d4 ♘xe5 (19... ♕xe5 20.♕xe5 ♘xe5 21.f4 ♘d7 22.♗xc6 ♖b8 23.♗xb5 a6 24.♗xc4 ♗b7 25.♖ac1±; 19... ♗b7? 20.♘xe6) 20.♖ac1 ♘d7 21.♗xc6 (21.♖d2 ♕e5 22.♕xe5 ♘xe5 23.f4 ♗b7! 24.fxe5 0-0-0∞) 21... ♖b8 22.a4 (22.♘xe6 ♕xc6 23.♘xf8 ♗b7 24.♖e1+ ♔d8 25.♔f1 ♕g2+ 26.♔e2 ♕f3+ 27.♔f1=) 22... a6 23.♕f6→ h6 24.axb5 axb5 25.♖c2 ♕g5 26.♕xg5 hxg5 27.♗xb5 ♖b6 28.♖xc4 ♗a6 29.♗xa6 ♖xa6 30.♘b5→;

b2) 16... ♕f8 17.a4 a6 18.axb5 cxb5 19.♘d4 and ♘f5 is coming next 19... ♕c5 20.♘f5 exf5 (20...f6 21.♘d6+ ♔e7 22.e5 ♖a7 23.♘e4 ♕xe5 24.♕a3+ ♔f7 25.♘d6+ ♔g6 26.♖e1+−) 21.♕xg7 ♖f8

22.exf5 ♖a7 23.♖d5 ♕e7 24.f6 ♕e6 25.♖d4±;



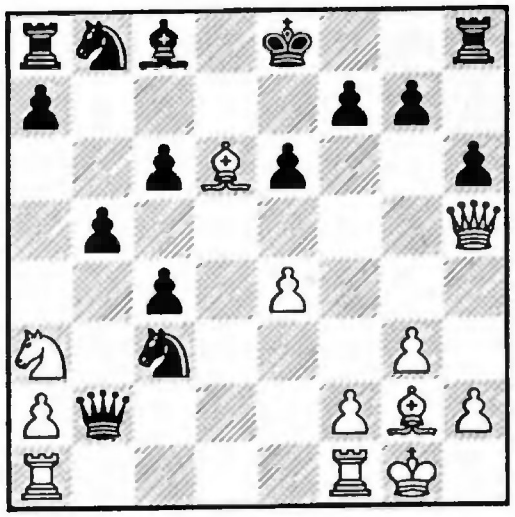
b3) 16... ♕e7!? 17.♕xg7 ♖f8 18.e5 f6 19.exf6 ♕xg7 20.fxg7 ♖g8 21.a4±;

c) 13... ♘b6 14.a4! (14.e5 ♕d8 15.♕g4 g6 16.♕f4 h6∞) 14... e5 (14... ♘xa4 15.e5 ♕d8 16.♖xa4 bxa4 17.♕g4 g6 18.♕xc4+−; 14... bxa4 15.e5 ♕d8 16.♕g4 g6 17.♖fd1 ♘d5 18.♕xc4 ♗a6 19.♕xa4 ♗b5 20.♕b3 a6 21.♗xd5 cxd5 22.♕xb5+ axb5 23.♖xa8+−) 15.f4 ♗g4 16.♕xg4 ♕xd6 17.♕xg7 ♖f8 18.♖ad1 ♕c5+ (18... ♕e7 19.♗h3±) 19.♔h1 ♘8d7 20.a5 ♘a4 21.♗h3 ♖d8 22.fxe5 ♘xe5 23.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 24.♘b4 ♘c3 25.♕xe5 ♕xe5 26.♘xc6+ ♔c7 27.♘xe5 ♘xe4 28.♗g2±;

12... ♘c3 13.♕h5

13.♕g4?! h5! 14.♕g5 ♘e2+ 15.♔h1 ♕f6 16.♕e3 ♕d4 17.♕xd4 ♘xd4 18.♗e5 ♘e2 19.♖ae1 f6 20.♗xb8 ♖xb8 21.♖xe2 e5∞

13... h6!



Black does not allow ♕g5 13... ♘d7?! This move was played few times many years ago.Black had good score but position is much better for white. 14.e5 ♗b7 15.♕g5 f6 16.exf6 0-0-0 17.fxg7 ♖hg8 18.♖ae1!

a) 18... ♘d5 19.♗xd5 exd5 20.♖e7 ♕f6 (20... b4 21.♘xc4 dxc4 22.♕a5+−) 21.♕xf6 ♘xf6 22.♖c7+ ♔b8 23.♗e5 ♖de8 24.♖e7+ ♔c8 25.♗xf6 ♖xe7 26.♗xe7 ♖xg7 27.♗c5 a5 28.♘c2 b4 29.♘d4±

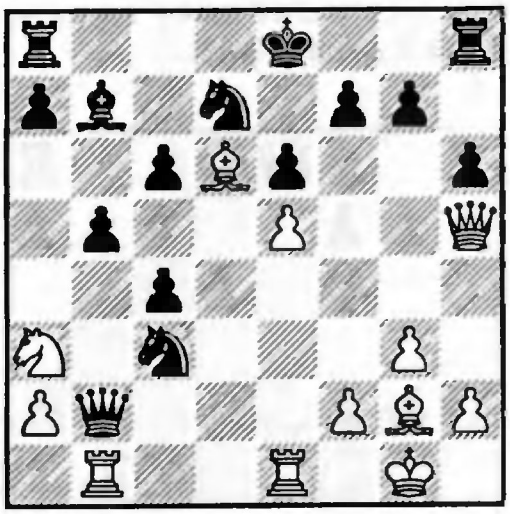
b) 18... ♖xg7 19.♕e3 ♘b6 (19... c5 20.♗xb7+ ♔xb7 21.♕f3+ ♔a6 22.♖e3 ♘d5 23.♖b1 ♕f6 24.♘xb5 ♕xf3 25.♖xf3 c3 26.♘xc3 ♘xc3 27.♖xc3 ♘b6 28.♗xc5+−) 20.♗e5 ♖d3 21.♘xc4 bxc4 22.♕h6 ♖gd7 23.♕xe6→;

c) 18... c5 19.♖xe6 ♕xa3 20.♗e7 ♗xg2 21.♔xg2 ♖de8 22.♕f5+−

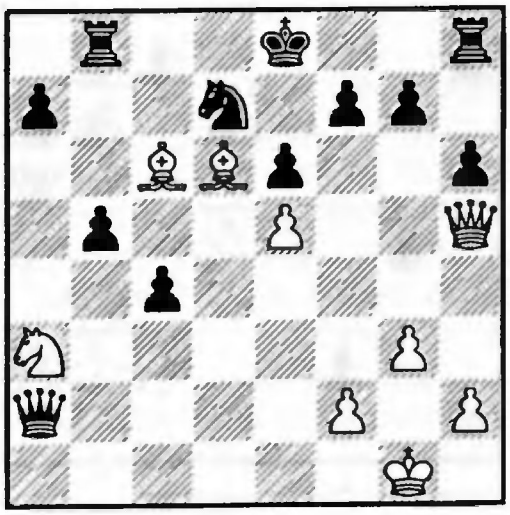
14.♖fe1

14.e5!? ♗b7 15.♖ab1 ♕e2 16.♗f3 ♕d3 17.♘xb5 cxb5 18.♗xb7 ♘xb1 19.♗xa8 ♘d2 20.♖c1 ♘d7 21.♗c6 g6 22.♕h4 g5 23.♕h5 ♖h7 24.♗b4 c3 25.♕d1 1-0 Iskusnyh,S (2465) −Yemelin,V (2571)/ St Petersburg 2010/ EXT 2011

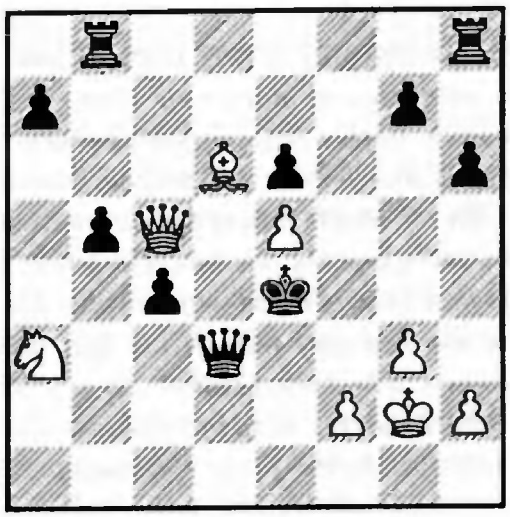
14... ♘d7 15.e5
15.♖ac1 ♕d2 16.♗f4 ♕b2 17.♗d6=
15... ♗b7 16.♖ab1?!



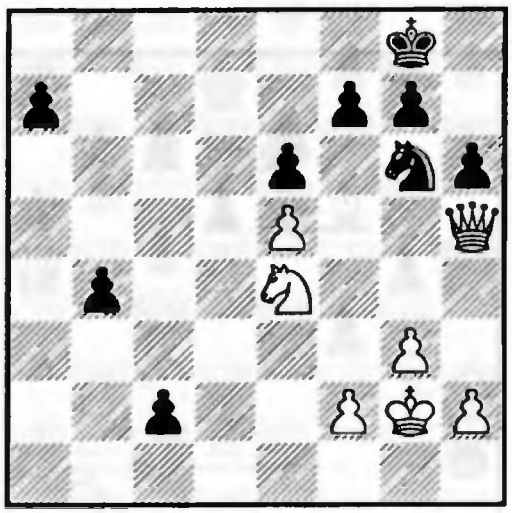
16.♖ac1 ♕d2 (16... g6 17.♕f3 ♘d5 18.♘xc4 bxc4 19.♖b1 ♕c3 (19... ♕xa2 20.♖xb7 ♖d8 21.♕g4↑) 20.♕xc3 ♘xc3 21.♖xb7 ♘d5 22.♖c1 ♘7b6 23.a4 c3 24.a5 ♘c4 25.♗xd5 cxd5 26.♖xc3 ♘xa5 27.♖e7+ ♔d8 28.♖cc7 ♖h7 29.♗c5±) 17.♘b1 ♘xb1 18.♖xb1 ♘b6 black solved most of their problems, and next moves are ♘d5 or ♕g5–♕d8, 19.♗e4 ♘d5 20.♗g6 ♕g5 21.♗xf7+ ♔d7∓
16... ♘xb1 17.♖xb1 ♕xa2
17... ♕d4 18.♘xb5 cxb5 19.♗xb7 ♖d8 20.♗c6 c3 21.♕f3 c2 22.♖c1 ♕d2 23.♗xd7+ ♖xd7 24.♕a8+ ♖d8 25.♕c6+ ♖d7 26.♖xc2 ♕d1+ 27.♔g2 ♕d5+ 28.♕xd5 exd5 29.♖c8+ ♖d8 30.♖c7 ♖d7=; 17... g6 18.♕f3 ♕xa2 19.♖xb5 cxb5 20.♕xb7 ♕a1+ 21.♗f1 ♖d8 22.♘xb5 f5 23.exf6 a6 24.♘c7+ ♔f7 25.♕e4 ♕xf6 26.♗xc4 ♔g7 27.♘xe6+ ♔h7∞
18.♖xb5 cxb5 19.♗xb7 ♖b8
19... b4 20.♗c6 ♕b3 21.♘b5 g6 22.♘c7+ ♔d8 23.♕h4+ g5 24.♕d4 ♕d3 25.♕a1 ♕a3 26.♕d4 ♕d3=
20.♗c6



20... ♖b6?!
This move immidiatly fixes a draw.
20... ♕b3 black could try to play for a win, idea of this move is take control on f3 square – to avoid perpetual check after ♗xd7 21.♔g2 ♕d3 22.♗xb8 (22.♗xd7+ ♔xd7 23.♕xf7+ ♔c6 24.♕c7+ ♔d5 25.♕c5+ ♔e4-+



22... 0-0 23.♗d6 b4 24.♗xf8 (24.♗xb4 ♖c8) 24... ♘xf8 25.♘b5 c3 26.♘d6 ♘g6 27.♗e4 ♕xe4+! 28.♘xe4 c2-+



21.♗xd7+ ♔xd7 22.♕xf7+ ♔c6 23.♕f3+ ♔d7 24.♕f7+ ♔c6 25.♕f3+ ♔d7 26.♕f7+ ½-½ *[Kamil Miton]*

(37) [E04]

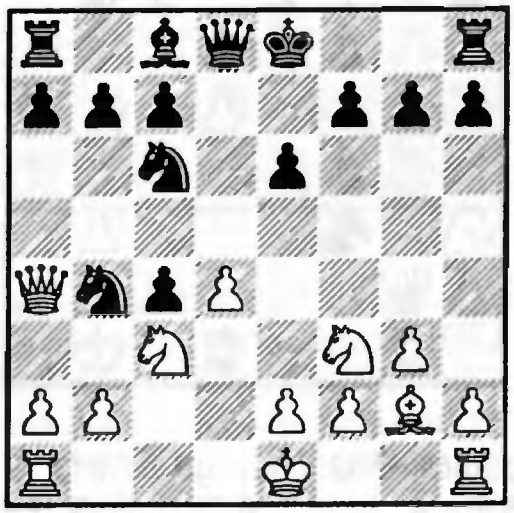
☐ **Sasikiran,K (2676)**

■ **Alekseev,Evgeny (2673)**

3rd Lublin GM Lublin POL (2), 16.05.2011

Catalan Opening is very popular and we are witnesses of many new ideas in this opening. In this game Sasikirian went for modern line 9.♘c3!. He prepared novelty 20.♕h5!? which is the only alternative to previous games in this line. Despite of the fact that he was faced with novelty, Alekseev reacted very well. White had strong e-pawn as compensation for excahge and both players were optimistic in game. Finally Alekseev played few unprecise moves and he lost game but conclusion is that white's novelty is interesting but not crushing. Black is able to hold his position and whole line remains OK for black.

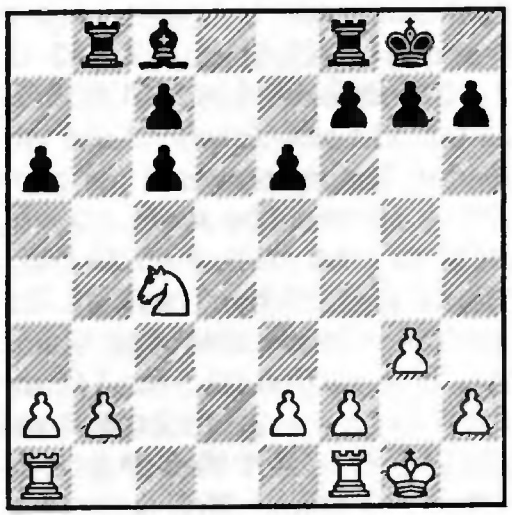
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.g3 dxc4 5.♗g2 ♘c6 6.♕a4 ♗b4+ 7.♗d2 ♘d5 8.♗xb4 ♘dxb4 9.♘c3!



Modern line which became popular after Aronian–Adams, Wijk aan Zee 2009 where white won convincingly. Main line is 9.0-0 ♖b8 10.♘a3 and here on German Individual Championship black went for 10... a6 where theory says that white is better in endgame which comes after forced (10... 0-0 is main line and for the followers of this line I suggest to check game Anand–Kramnik, Bilbao 2010) 11.♘e5 0-0 12.♘xc6 ♘xc6 13.♕xc4 ♕xd4 14.♗xc6 ♕xc4 15.♘xc4 bxc6± /= Here white played

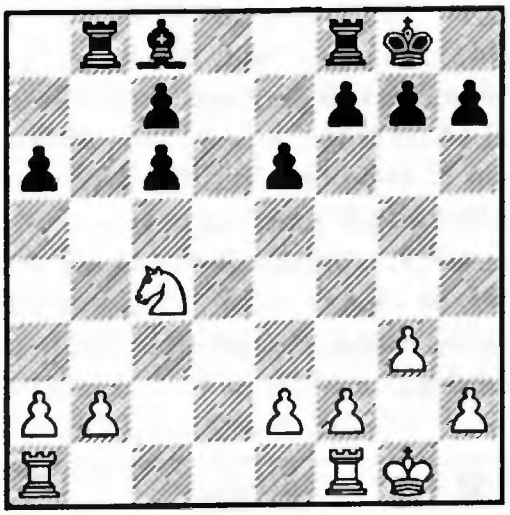
a) 16.♖fd1 perventing idea with ♖d8 and ♔f8. Black continued with typical defensive moves: 16... ♖b5 17.b3 ♖e8 18.♖ac1 ♔f8 19.♘b2 ♗b7 20.e4 ♔e7 21.♘a4 e5 and he equalised very soon. 22.f3 f6 23.♔f2 ♖d8 24.♖xd8

♔xd8 25.♘c5 ♗c8 26.a4 ♖b4 27.♖d1+ ♔e7 28.♔e3 a5= Buhmann–Khenkin, Germany (ch) 2011;



b) 16.♖ac1 ♖d8 17.♖fd1 ♗d7 18.f4 ♗e8 19.♖xd8 ♖xd8 20.♔f2 ♔f8 21.♔e3 ♖d5 22.♘e5 g5 23.♘xc6 gxf4+ 24.gxf4 ♗xc6 25.♖xc6 ♖a5 26.a3 ♖b5 27.b4 a5= Wang Yue–Ghaem Maghami, Asia (tch) 2008

c) 16.♖fc1!? is move where white has best results, and here deserves attention same plan as in the game Wang Yue–Ghaem Maghami: 16... ♖d8!?N (Black was worse after 16... ♖b5 17.b3 ♖c5 18.♘b2 ♖xc1+ 19.♖xc1 ♗d7 20.♘c4 ♖d8 21.♔f1 ♗e8 22.♔e1 ♔f8 23.♘a5 ♖d6 24.b4 ♖d5 25.h4 h6 26.♖c3 g5 27.hxg5 hxg5 28.a3 ♗d7 29.♘xc6 ♔e8 30.f3 ♖b5 31.♘d4 ♖d5 32.♘b3 ♔d8 33.♘c5± Kir.Georgiev–Mih.Stojanovic, Niksic (rapid) 2.1 2008; 16... f6 17.b3 ♖b5 18.♖c2 e5 19.♘e3 ♗d7 20.♖d1 ♖f7 21.♖c4 ♖b6 22.f3± ♗e6 23.♖a4 ♖e7?! 24.♖d8+ ♔f7 25.♖a8 ♖d7 26.♖8xa6 ♖d2 27.♔f2± 1-0 Lastin–Olafsson, Moscow 2004) 17.b3 /\ ♘a5 17... ♖b5! This stops ♘a5 or ♘e5. 18.♘b2 (18.e4 ♔f8 19.♖d1 ♖xd1+ 20.♖xd1 ♔e7 21.f4 f6= and black should not be worse.) 18... ♖bd5 Simplest. Black is activating rooks on d–line. White can try (18... ♗d7 19.♘d3 ♔f8 20.♘c5 ♗c8 21.♖c4 ♔e7 22.♖ac1 f6 23.f3 e5 24.♔f2± /= this should be also close to equal but now white can play against black rook on b5 so this position gives him some chances to play on win.) 19.♘d3 (19.♖xc6 ♖d2 20.♖xc7 ♖xb2 21.♖ac1 ♖xa2 22.♖xc8 ♖f8= with drawish endgame.) 19... ♗b7 20.♖c4 ♔f8 21.♖ac1 ♔e7 22.♔g2, but after 22... ♖d4= position is equal.;



d) 16.b3 ♖d8 17.♖fd1 ♗d7 18.♖ac1 ♗e8! Typical plan. Black's king goes to e7 and he will protect weak pawns on kingside. 19.f3 ♔f8 20.♔f2 ♔e7 21.♔e1 ♖b5 22.♖xd8 ♔xd8 23.h4 ♔e7 24.♖c3 f6 25.♘d2 h6 26.♘e4 ♗d7 27.♘c5 ♗c8= and white cannot improve his position. Kir.Georgiev–Mih. Stojanovic, Niksic (rapid) 2.3 2008; In past years there was teoreti–

cal discussion in forced line 9.a3 b5 10.♕xb5 ♘c2+ 11.♔d2 ♗d7 12.♔xc2 ♘xd4+ 13.♘xd4 ♗xb5 14.♘xb5 ♖b8∞ Theory proved that black has good position and white players started to search for new possibilities to get initiative.

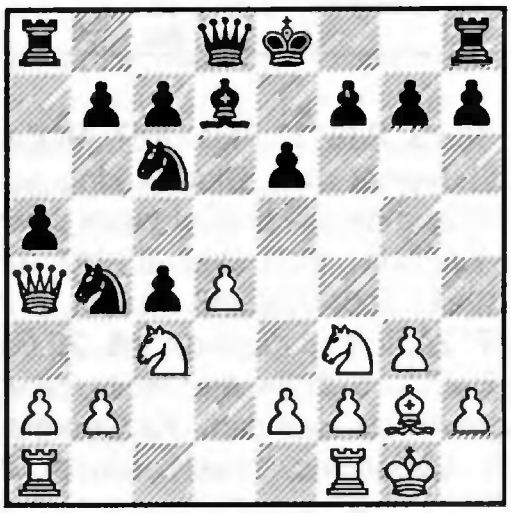
9... ♗d7

Best option for black.

In mentioned game Aronian–Adams, Wijk aan Zee 2009 black played dubious: 9... a6?! and after 10.♘e5 0-0 (On 10... ♗d7 white can play 11.♘xd7 b5 (11... ♕xd7 12.a3 ♘d5 13.♕xc4±) 12.♕d1 ♕xd7 13.d5! 0-0-0 (13... exd5? 14.a3 d4 15.axb4 dxc3 16.♕xd7+ ♔xd7 17.0-0-0++–; 13... ♘e7 14.dxe6 ♕xd1+ 15.♖xd1 ♖b8 16.exf7+ ♔xf7 17.f4±) 14.a4!→ with strong attack.) 11.♘xc6 ♘xc6 12.♗xc6 bxc6 13.♕xc4 ♖b8 14.b3 ♕d6 15.♘e4 ♕b4+ 16.♕xb4 ♖xb4 17.0-0-0! e5 18.♖d2 a5 19.♖hd1± White had pleasant edge.;

9... 0-0?! 10.0-0 ♖b8 11.a3 ♘d5 12.♕xc4 ♘ce7 13.♖ac1± Inarkiev–Nakhapetiane, Russia (tch) 2011

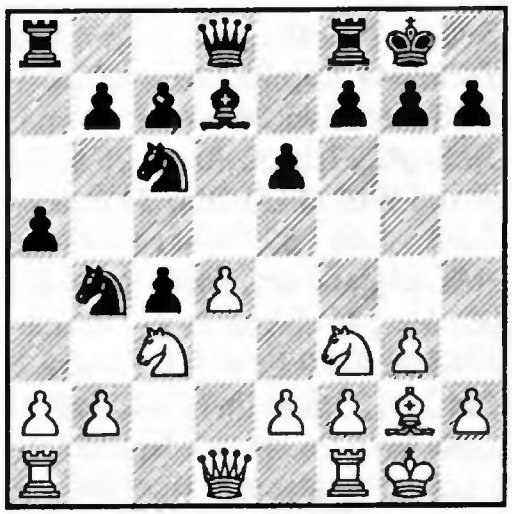
10.0-0 a5



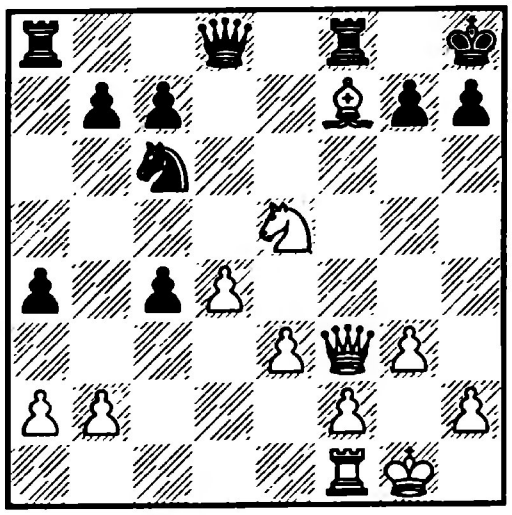
Black believes to his analysis. Alekseev had already played this move with black and he did not have problems to equalize.

Other option is 10... a6?!, but after strong 11.♘e5! b5 12.♕a3 ♖b8 (12... 0-0 13.♘xc6 ♘xc6 14.♕c5 ♕e8 15.a4±) 13.♘xc6 ♘xc6 14.d5! white is better. Theory proves it (all games which I will mention were played in 2011!): 14... b4 (14... ♘e5 15.♕c5 f6 16.♖ad1 ♕e7 17.♕xc7 ♔f7 18.♘e4± Wen Yang–Pham Chuong, Vietnam 2011) 15.♕xa6 ♖b6 (15... bxc3 16.dxe6 0-0 17.exd7 cxb2 18.♗xc6 bxa1♕ 19.♖xa1 ♕f6 20.♖c1 ♕e6 21.♖c2 ♖fd8 22.♕xc4± Sebenik–Kelecevic, Lienz (op) 2011) 16.♕xc4 ♘e5 17.♕e4 ♕f6 (17... bxc3 18.♕xe5 cxb2 19.♖ab1 f6 20.♕c3 ♕b8 21.♖fd1 exd5 22.♗xd5 ♗f5 23.♕e3+ ♔f8 24.♕c5+ ♖d6 25.e4 1-0 Naumann–Singer, Bad Wiessee (op) 2011) 18.dxe6 fxe6 19.♕a8+ ♕d8 20.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 21.♘e4 ♗b5 22.♖fd1+ ♔e7 23.♖ac1 ♖c8 24.♔f1± with clear advantage. Jumabayev–Ulko, Moscow (op) 2011

11.♕d1 0-0

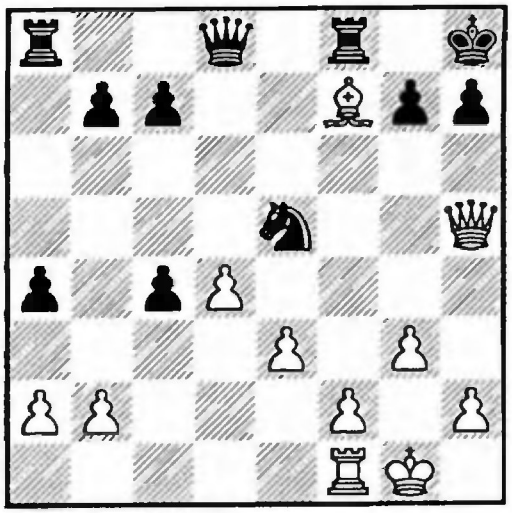


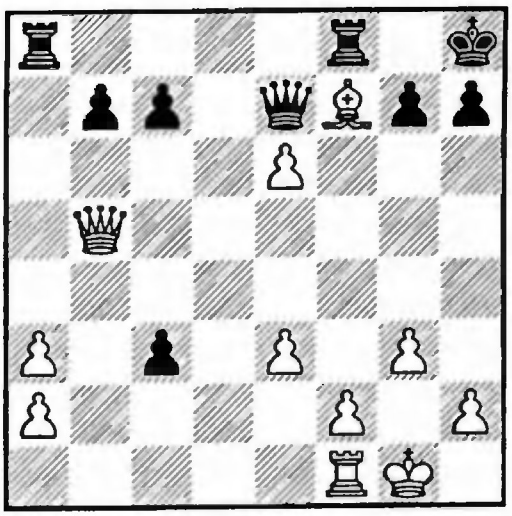
12.e3
Going into critical line.
Another idea was 12.♘d2!? which was played by Leko. White wants to take on c4, so black has to play next move: 12... ♘xd4 13.♗xb7 ♖b8 14.♗g2 and maybe here Alekseev wanted to improve position by playing 14... ♕e7!?N (In the game black played 14... ♗c8 15.♘xc4 c5 16.e3 ♗a6 17.b3 ♘f5 18.♕e2 ♕c7 19.♖fd1 ♖fd8 20.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 21.♖d1 ♖xd1+ 22.♕xd1 ♗xc4 23.bxc4 ♕d6 24.♕a4± and white was better. Leko-Grischuk, Khanty Mansiysk (ol) 2010) 15.♘xc4 ♕c5 16.b3 (16.♘xa5 ♘bc2 17.♘b7 ♕b6 18.♖b1 ♗c6 (18... ♗c8 19.♘a4 ♕b5 20.♘bc5 ♘xe2+ 21.♔h1↑) 19.♗xc6 ♕xc6 20.♘a5 ♕a6 21.♘b3 ♖fd8 22.♘xd4 ♘xd4⩱ with compensation for pawn.) 16... ♗c6 17.♗xc6 ♘dxc6⇄ and black has active pieces as compensation for worse structure.
12... a4
Nice move. Now black celaring a5 square for his knight and he can defend c4 pawn.
13.♕e2 ♘a5 14.♘e5 ♘d5
This was improvement by GM Landa in 2010. After that game this move was played in two more games: Khairullin-Alekseev, Russia 2010 Aronian-Kramnik, Shanghai 2010. In both games black had good position so Alekseev had no reason to go away this line. Next few moves are forced:
In game Dziuba-Landa, Aeroflot Open 2009 black tried 14... ♕e8. Now white should play 15.a3 ♘d3 (15... ♘d5 16.♘xd5 exd5 17.♗xd5 is just better for white.) 16.♘xc4 ♘xc4 17.♕xd3 ♘d6 18.♖ac1± with better position.
15.♘xd5 exd5 16.♗xd5 ♗h3 17.♕f3 ♗xf1 18.♗xf7+ ♔h8 19.♖xf1 ♘c6



And here white played interesting novelty
20.♕h5!?N
White's idea is simple. He wants to make very strong passed pawn which will be help for white. There is idea, when white pawn apears to e5, to push e6. After that white's bishop on f7 will paralise black defence. Black has to play:
Until now it was played 20.♘xc6 bxc6 21.♕h5 ♖b8 22.♗xc4 ♖xb2 23.♗d3 but after 23... g6 24.♗xg6 ♕e7⇄ black was able to hold in games which I already mention before.
20... ♘xe5

Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs





21.dxe5↑

This is position white aimed for. I am sure that Sasikirian analysed this position very long and that he was very satisfied to have it in the game.

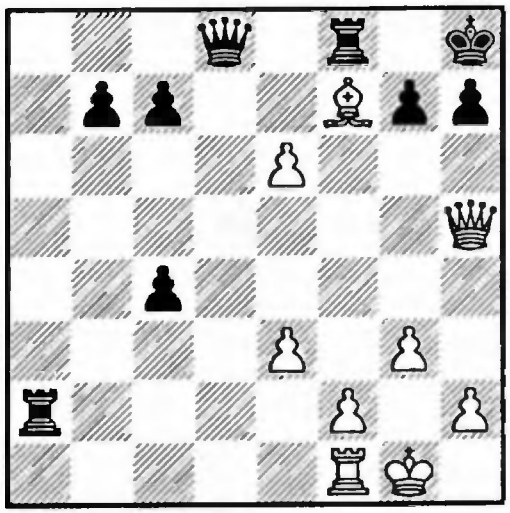
21... ♖a5!

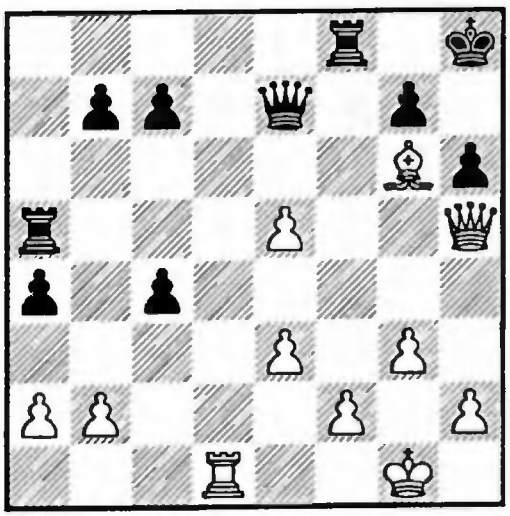
Best defence. Black has to stop e6.

On 21... ♕e7 white is clinching his bishop with 22.e6↑ and he has strong initiative. For example: 22... a3 23.bxa3 c3 (23... ♖xa3? 24.♖c1 ♖xa2 25.♖xc4± and white rook is going in attack. Main threat is ♕c5 and it is very hard to prevent it.) 24.♕b5! Nice move with threat to change queen with ♕b4. (24.♕h4 ♕xh4 25.gxh4 c6 26.♖c1 g6 27.♖xc3 ♔g7 28.♖b3 b5 29.h5 ♔f6 30.hxg6 hxg6∞; 24.♖c1 ♕xa3 25.♖c2 ♕b4!⇄)

24... ♕xa3 (24... b6 25.♕b4!) 25.♕xb7 ♕xa2 26.♕e4 ♖ab8! This is last moment to activate rook with black. (26... ♕a3 27.♖b1± and white will slowly improve his position while black cannot play ♖b8 or ♖d8.) 27.♔g2± and white can improve his position by h4–h5 and securing king on h3 square while black stays passive.(27.♖c1 ♖b2 (27... ♕a3 28.♖c2±) 28.♕f5 ♕a3 29.♕d3 ♕a2 30.e7 ♕xf7 31.exf8♕+ ♕xf8 32.f3! ♖b3 33.f4 ♕d6 34.♕xd6 cxd6 35.♔f2 ♔g8⇄ probably leads to drawish endgame.);

If black tries to get counterplay with c-pawn after 21... a3 22.bxa3 c3, white reacts with (On 22... ♖xa3 there is strong 23.e6! ♖xa2





a) 23... ♕f6 24.♕c5 ♖fa8 25.♕xc4± with advantage for white.;
b) 23... b6 24.♗g6 h6 25.♗b1 ♕f6 (25... ♕g5 26.♕xg5 hxg5 27.♗g6! and e-pawn gives advantage to white.) 26.♕g6 ♕xg6 27.♗xg6 ♖aa8 28.♖d1± and white will have pawn up in rook endgame.; 24.♕f3! Now white threats to take on b7 and to play ♖d1. It looks that black has huge problems, for example: 24... c3 (24... b6? 25.♖d1) 25.♕xb7 ♕e7 26.♕c6 ♖c2 27.♕c4 /\ ♕d3 and ♕h4 27... ♕f6 28.♕h4 ♖xf7 29.exf7 ♕xf7 30.♕d8+ ♕g8 31.♕xc7± and white is on top.)
23.♗g6! (23.♖d1?? c2!; 23.e6 ♕e7) 23... h6 24.♖d1 (24.h4? ♕d2!) 24... ♕e7 (After 24... ♕g5 25.♕xg5 hxg5 26.e6 ♖f6 27.♗f7 g6 28.♖c1 ♔g7 29.♖xc3± white has material and positional advantage.) 25.♗c2 ♖a6 26.a4!± /+/- and white stopped black's counterplay on queenside. Material is equal so conclusion is that white stays better.

22.♖d1 ♕e7 23.♗g6 h6

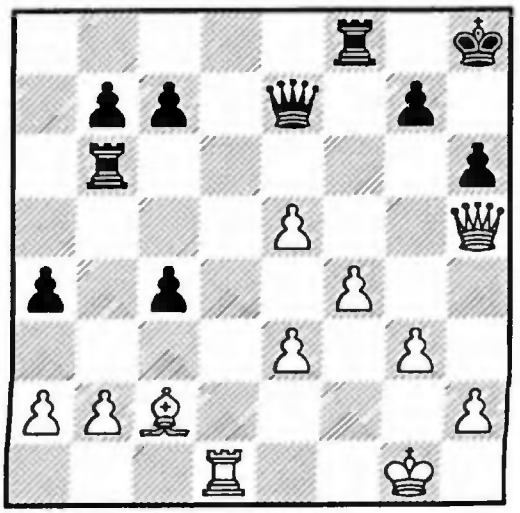
24.f4

Position is very interesting and unclear. White has initiative, but after last move also some squares around white king became weak.

24... ♖b5

Black is also ambitious.
Black could forced draw with 24... a3!? 25.♗c2 (25.bxa3? ♕xa3∓) 25... ♖d8! White can try with (25... ♕e8 26.♕xe8 ♖xe8 27.b3! cxb3 28.♗xb3↑ and this endgame is worse for black: 28... ♖aa8 29.♖d7 c5 30.♗f7 ♖ec8 31.e6±; 25... ♕e6 26.b3 cxb3 27.♗xb3 ♕c6 28.♕g4 ♖c5 29.e6 ♖c1 30.♔f2 ♖xd1 31.♕xd1 ♖e8 32.♕d3⩱ +/=) 26.b3 (26.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 27.♕f5 ♕g8! leads to draw after 28.b3 cxb3 29.♗xb3 ♕xb3 30.axb3 a2 31.♕f8+= and white does not have anything better than perpetual check.) 26... cxb3 27.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 28.♗xb3 ♖c5 29.♕f7 ♖c3 30.f5 ♖xb3! Simplest solution. 31.♕xb3 ♕d2= and white cannot avoid perpetual check.

25.♗c2 ♖b6!



Preventing ♕g6. White pawns are more dangerous after 25...♖xb2 26.♕g6 ♖xc2 27.♕xc2 b5! (27...♕c5 28.♕c3 b5 29.a3 ♕c6 30.♔f2 ♕e4 31.h4±) 28.♖d5 ♕b4 (28...c6 29.♖d6±) 29.♔f2± and white king comes in centre. Black pawns will be stopped very soon and after that white will create plan for advance of his central pawns. I don't know if white is able to convert this advantage but it is very unpleasant to play this position with black.; On 25...♕e6? white is using his passed pawn with 26.♕g6! ♕xg6 (26...♕g8 27.e6 ♖b6 28.f5!+−) 27.♗xg6 ♖b6 28.f5+− and there is no defence from e6−e7.]

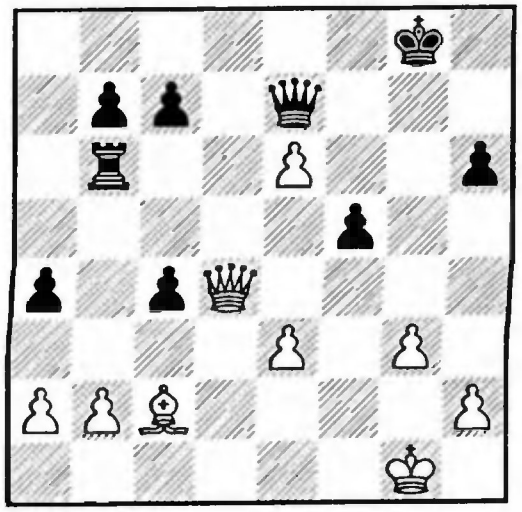
26.♕f3 ♖d8

Black avoids 26...♖xb2 27.♕e4 ♖xc2 28.♕xc2± which would lead to same position as after 25...♖xb2

27.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 28.♕e4∞

Game went into very interesting position. Black has exchange up, but his king is bad and connected with strong e−pawn, white has enough compensation.

28...g6 29.e6 ♕e7 30.f5 gxf5 31.♕d4+ ♔g8



32.♗xf5≅ ♖d6

Trying to make passed pawn with 32... a3 33.bxa3 ♖c6 would not be so good. White can react with 34.♕g4+ ♔f8 35.♕g6 ♖d6 36.♕xh6+ ♔g8 37.♔g2! and white king goes in attack. 37... c3 38.h4 ♕g7 39.♕f4↑ and black cannot promote his c−pawn, so whole idea lost on sense.

33.♕xc4 ♔f8

Again black could make draw with 33... ♖d1+ 34.♔g2 ♖d2+ and after 35.♔h3 computer gives very nice forced line: 35... ♖xb2 36.♕g4+ ♕g5 37.♗h7+!? ♔g7 (37... ♔xh7 38.♕xg5 hxg5 39.e7+−) 38.♕d4+ ♕f6 39.♕d7+ ♔f8 (39... ♔h8?? 40.♗d3+−) 40.♕c8+ ♔e7 (40... ♔g7?? 41.♕g8#) 41.♕xc7+ ♔f8 42.♕d6+ ♔g7 43.♗d3 ♖f2!= and white cannot improve his position.

34.♗g4 ♕g7!?

Black could try 34... h5 35.♕f4+ ♔g8 36.♗e2 (36.♗xh5 ♕xe6⇄) 36... ♔g7! and there is no better move for white

than 37.♕e5+ ♕f6 38.♕xh5 ♖xe6 39.♕g4+ ♔h6 40.♕h5+= with perpetual check.

35.♔g2!?

On 35.♕xa4 black has to find 35... ♕e5! and again game would be finished by draw after 36.♕a8+ ♔g7 37.♕e8 ♕xe3+ 38.♔g2 ♖d2+ 39.♔h3 ♕f2 40.♕e7+ ♔g6 41.♕e8+=

35... ♕f6

It was possible to take pawn 35... ♕xb2+ 36.♔h3 ♕f6 and after 37.♕xc7 ♕f1+ 38.♔h4 ♕f6+ 39.♔h3 ♕f1+= it is again draw.

36.♕c2?

Mistake which could change course of game.

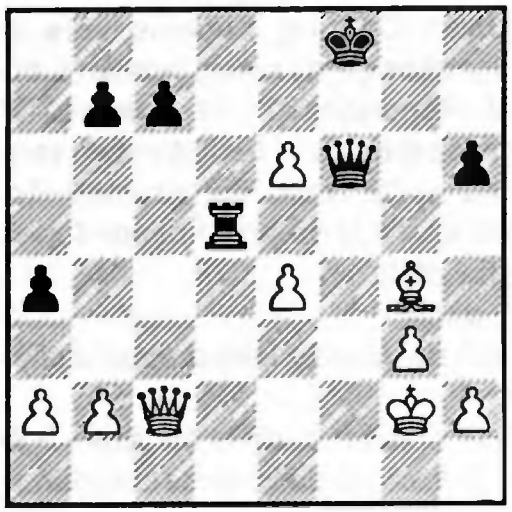
36.♕c5 was leading to aproximatelly equal game.

36... ♖d5?

Black also missed idea with h5 and his next two moves were on very low level.

It was right time for 36... h5! and black has to choose will he give up e6 pawn or tried to survive after 37.♗f5 ♖c6 38.♕d3 ♕xb2+ 39.♔h3 ♕f6∓

37.e4

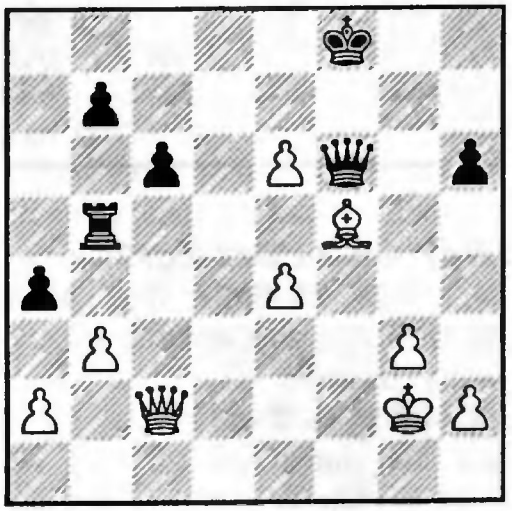


37... ♖b5?

Misplacing rook on b5 black gave white chance to play on win.

Correct was 37... ♖d8! 38.♕c5+ ♔g8∞ and black should be able to defend position.

38.b3± c6 39.♗f5



39... a3?

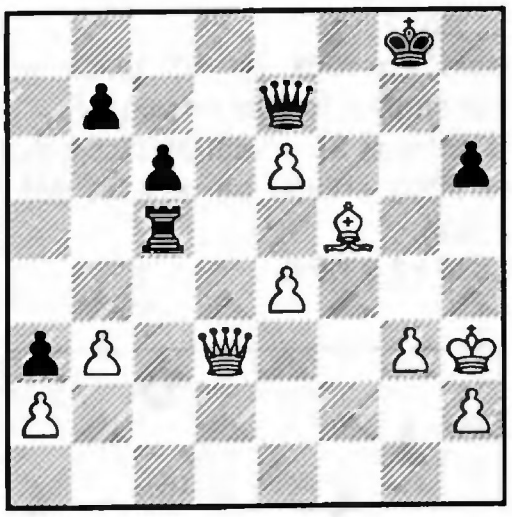
This is just bad. Pawn on a3 will be weakness and soon black will lose it.

Much better was 39... axb3 40.axb3 h5 but because of bad position of his rook black would be faced with tough defence. Now white can play 41.h4± with fixing black pawn on h5 and preparing invade with queen.(Possible is 41.♔h3 h4 42.g4 ♕d4 43.g5!↑)

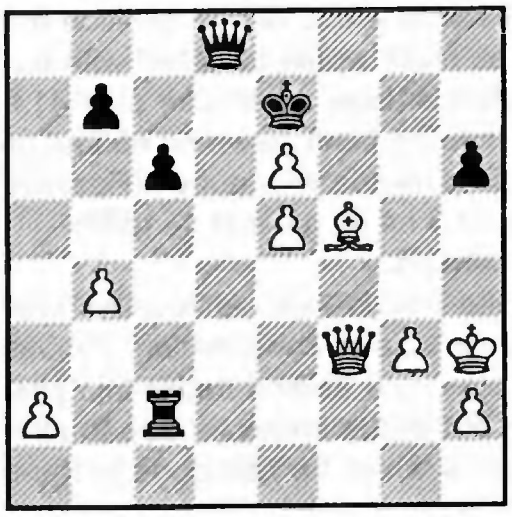
40.♔h3!±

white king is safe, while black pieces doesn't have coordination. Probably, black could defend better this position but this is irrelevant due to all mistakes which he had done in the last few moves.

40... ♕e7 41.♕c3 ♔g8 42.♕d3 ♖c5



43.♕d7! ♔f8 44.♕d2 ♔g7?!
⌓44... ♕g5 45.♕d6+ ♕e7 46.♕d4 ♔g8 47.♕b4!± and white is still trying to win a-pawn.
45.♕b4 ♔f8 46.♕xa3
Black lost pawn on a3 and white should be winning due to his positional and material advantage. Game continued:
46... ♖c2 47.b4 ♕d8 48.♕f3 ♔e7 49.e5!+-



49... ♖b2 50.♕c3 ♕d2 51.♕c5+ ♔d8 52.e7+ and black resigned before mate. 52.e7+ ♔e8 53.♗g6+ ♔d7 54.e8♕+ ♔c7 55.♕a5+ b6 56.♕a7#
1-0 *[Predojevic,Borki]*

(38) [E04]

□ **Sasikiran,K (2676)**
■ **Socko,B (2654)**

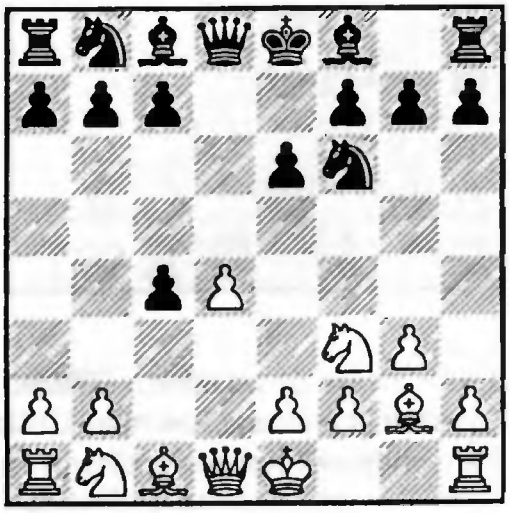
3rd Lublin GM Lublin POL (4), 18.05.2011

After the game Sasikiran–Alekseev from 2nd round, Socko was black against Sasikiran. He knew that white will went for Catalan Opening again so he prepared very rare and interesting line 5... ♗d7!?. Sasikiran was surprised by black's decision and he went for not so good 10.♕f3. After that black had nice position and advantage. Slowly he got decisive advantage but after few connected mistakes white escaped and the game finished by draw. In analysis I gave some of ideas for black on main moves and I hope that the line with 5... ♗d7!? will find regular followers in future

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.g3
Catalan Opening became very popular after on all levels Avrukh's book GM Repertoire 1. d4 Volume One. This opening was tested in two recent matches for World title: Kramnik–Topalov, Elista 2006 and Anand–Topalov, Sofia 2010.
4... dxc4
Black decides to take immediatelly on c4.
Other popular move is 4... ♗b4+ 5.♗d2 ♗e7 which leads to close Catalan.;

Or 4... ♗e7 5.♗g2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.♕c2 a6 which leads to one of the most critical line in Catalan.

5.♗g2

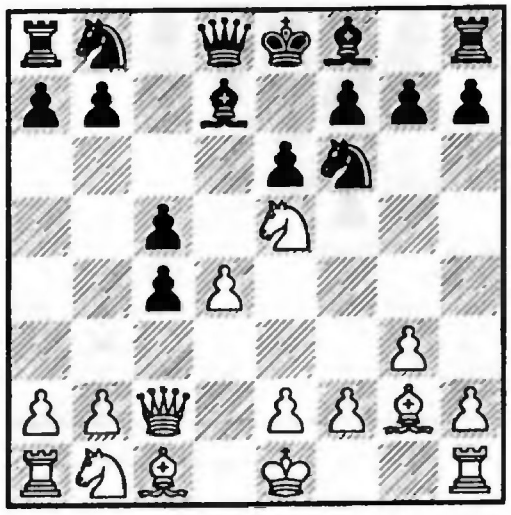


5... ♗d7!?

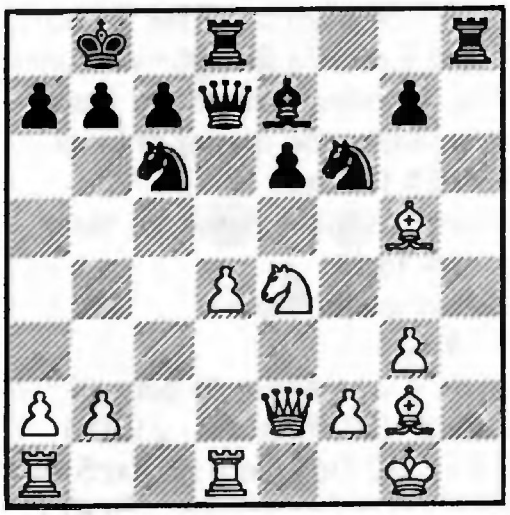
This move was played few times by Karpov and Kortschnoi in 1980's and it went out of fashion for a long time and it was played rarely in last 10 or more years. Black gives light-squared bishop, but he gets fast development for that. Most popular moves in this position are 5... a6, 5... ♘c6 and 5... c5.

6.♘e5

6.♕c2 was played by Kasparov in 1983. and it is interesting that this move had not been played in high-level games after 1988. Black should react with 6... c5 and position which come after 7.♘e5 (7.♕xc4 ♗c6 is transposing to line 5... c5 6.♕a4+ ♗d7 7.♕xc4 ♗c6 where acording to theory black does not have any problems. For example: 8.dxc5 (8.0-0 ♘bd7 9.♘c3 ♖c8! 10.♗g5 cxd4 11.♕xd4 ♗c5 12.♕f4 h6 13.♗xf6 ♕xf6 14.♖fd1 ♕xf4 15.gxf4 ♗b4∓ with comfortable position for black. Bacrot-Kortschnoj, Odessa (rapid) 2007) 8... ♘bd7 9.♗e3 ♗d5 10.♕a4 ♗c6 11.♕c4 ♗d5 12.♕c2 ♗e4 (It was possible to play: 12... ♗xc5 13.♗xc5 ♕c7 14.b4 (14.0-0 ♕xc5 15.♕xc5 ♘xc5 16.♖c1 ♘cd7 17.♘c3 ♗c6⇄) 14... b6 15.♘bd2 bxc5 16.0-0 0-0 17.e4 ♗b7⇄ with good game for black.) 13.♕c1 ♗xc5 14.♗xc5 ♖c8 15.b4 b6 16.♘c3 bxc5 17.♘xe4 ♘xe4 18.♕c4 ♘ef6 19.0-0 0-0 20.b5 ♕a5⇄ and soon black equalized. Zhou Jian-chao-Adams, Khanty Mansiysk 2007)



7... ♘c6 8.♘xc6 ♗xc6 9.♗xc6+ bxc6 is not dangerous for black: 10.dxc5 ♗xc5 11.0-0 ♕d5 12.♘c3 (12.♘d2 h5!? 13.♕xc4 h4 14.♕xd5?! cxd5 15.b3 ♘g4 16.♘f3 hxg3 17.hxg3 e5 18.♗b2 f6 19.e3 ♔f7∓ Kiss-Tischbierek, Leipzig (op) 1988) 12... ♕h5 13.♔g2 0-0 14.♘a4 ♕d5+ 15.f3 ♗e7 16.♖d1 ♕b5 17.♖d4 ♘d5 18.♖xc4 ♖fd8 19.a3 ♖ac8 20.b3 ♗f6⇄ and black has no problems. Vaganian-Portisch, Saint



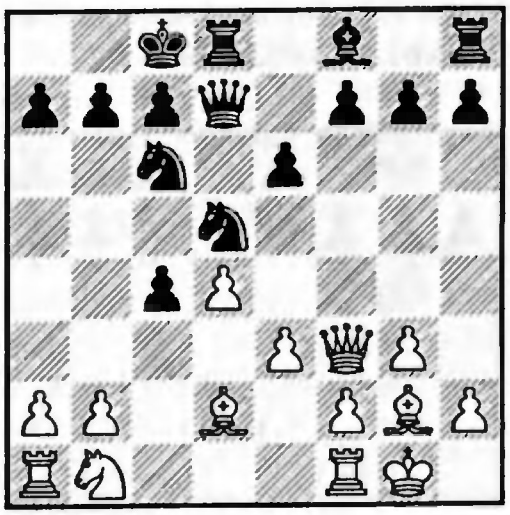
19.♘xf6 gxf6 20.d5 ♘e5 21.♗e3 exd5 22.♖xd5± white was better. Wen Yang–Ismagambetov, Asia (ch) 2011) 11.h3?! This is going into black's favour. (More logical was 11.♕xc4N h4 12.♘c3 hxg3 13.hxg3 and now black can wait with an idea ♘d5 and continue development with (13.fxg3 ♘d5 /\ f5) 13... ♗e7 (13... ♘g4?! is too risky: 14.♗d2 (14.♖d1 f5! /\ g5, ♖h2–>; 14.♗xc6 bxc6!?∞ and black is trying to atack on the kingside.) 14... f5 15.♘e2 (15.♖fc1 e5 16.d5 ♔b8) 15... g5 16.♖fc1!→ and white`s atack is faster.) 14.♖d1 (14.♗d2 ♘d5∞ now white covered d–line with bishop so there is no threat ♖d1 with idea e4.) 14... ♖h5 15.♗d2 ♖dh8∞ with unclear game.) 11... h4 12.g4 ♘d5 13.♕xc4 f5! Now black has nice game. 14.gxf5 exf5 15.♘c3 ♘b6 16.♕e2 g5 17.a4 ♗b4 18.♗d2 ♔b8 19.♖fc1 g4→ and black was better. Swiercz–Bartel, Lublin 2010

10... ♘d5

Black continues with typical plan, next move will be f5.

Computer suggest 10... e5 11.♘c3 (11.♘d2 exd4 12.♘xc4 ♕e6 13.b3 ♗c5 14.♗d2 (14.♗b2 ♖he8 15.exd4 ♗xd4 is in black's favour.) 14... ♖he8∓ and white still need to show compensation for pawn.) 11... exd4 12.exd4 ♕xd4 13.♗h3+ Preventing Qg4. (13.♗e3 ♕g4 14.♕xg4+ ♘xg4∓) 13... ♔b8 14.♖d1 ♘e5 15.♕e2 ♘d3 16.♗e3 ♕d6 17.♗xa7+ ♔a8∞ and Rybka is very optimistic here with a black pieces, but position is rather complex and dangerous for black.

11.♗d2?!N



Suspicious decision.

Usual was 11.♘d2 h5 12.♘xc4 h4⇄ and black should be fine. White queen on f3 is not on a best place while black is following typical plan (next can be f5 at some moment).; 11.♖d1 f5 looks good for black. Ootes–Miedema, Nederland (ch–U21) 2009

11... f5 12.♖c1 e5! 13.♘c3

After 13.♖xc4 e4 14.♕e2 h5→ black atack would be faster, since logical

John (cm) 1988

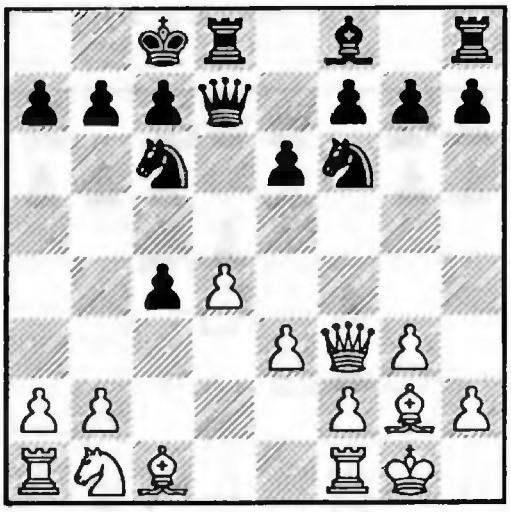
6... ♗c6 7.♘xc6 ♘xc6 8.0-0

8.♗xc6+ bxc6 9.0-0 c5= does not bring anything to white.

8... ♕d7 9.e3 0-0-0

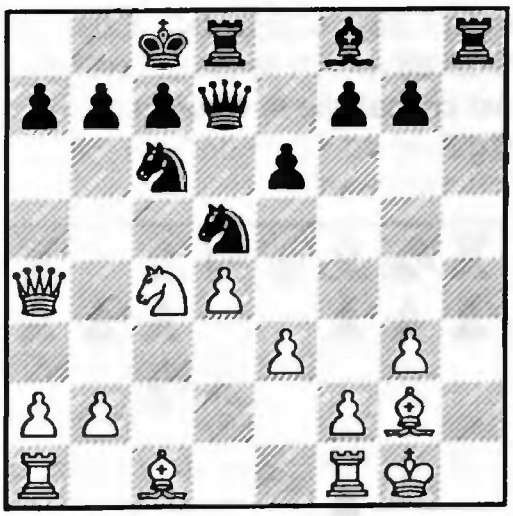
All previous moves are logical and this is tabya for 5... ♗d7 line. As we see, white and black made opossite castles which is unique variation in Catalan. It looks that white atack will be faster and stronger, but black's play has point too.

10.♕f3



Rare move which is not best in my opinion. Probably white was surprised by black choice (5... ♗d7!?) and he tried to find some new ways assuming that black checked and analysed logical moves. Instead of this white could choose more played 10.♘d2 or 10.♕a4.

On 10.♘d2 I suggest game where black played 10... h5 (Interesting is 10... e5 11.♘xc4 exd4 12.♕a4 d3∞ with unclear game.) 11.♘xc4 h4 and after 12.♕a4 hxg3 13.hxg3 ♘d5



black had nice position. Diference between this line and line with 10.Qa4 is that white will not have strong idea with e4 like after 10.Qa4. Here white continued withlogical 14.♗d2 ♔b8 15.♖fc1 f5 16.♘a5 ♘xa5 17.♕xd7 ♖xd7 18.♗xa5 ♘f6 19.♗c3 ♗d6 20.♗f3 g5⇄ and black had no problems. Kreisl-Grachev, Aix-les-Bains 2011; 10.♕a4 was played last year on the same tournament. Game went: 10... h5!? This move was played just once. (Usually blacks choose 10... ♘d5 11.♕xc4 h5 12.♘c3 h4 and in two games whites were reacting with best 13.♖d1! hxg3 14.hxg3 f5 15.♕e2 preparing e4 break. One of these games continued with: 15... ♔b8 16.e4 fxe4 17.♘xe4 ♗e7 18.♗g5 and after suspicious 18... ♘f6?! (Computer gives 18... ♗xg5 19.♘xg5 ♖h6∞ with unclear position, but in my opinion white is better here due to better structure. Black cannot make serious atack on the king side because white king is defending ♗g2.)

15.♘c3? is bad because of 15... ♘b6∓ and white rook is trapped.

13... e4

13... ♘db4!?↑ was reasonable alternative.

14.♕e2 ♘b6∞

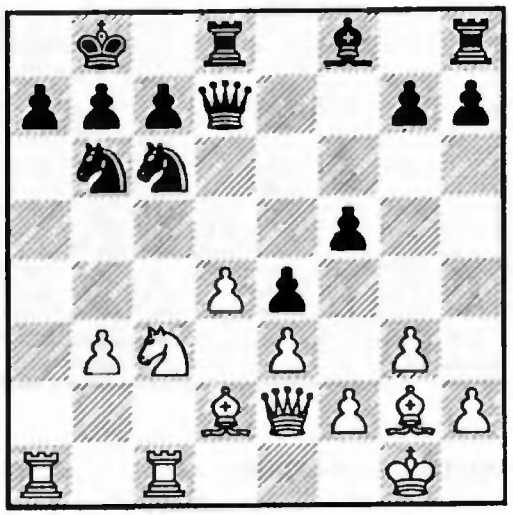
/=/+ Position is unclear but black save the pawn and he should not be worse.

15.b3

This is the only way to continue fight. White will be pawn down, but at least he will have chances to organize atack on a queen side.

15.♗h3?! with an idea ♘e4 would be met by strong 15... g5!∓ and black advantage is increasing move per move.

15... cxb3 16.axb3 ♔b8



17.♘a4?

Too slow.

Better was 17.f3 ♗b4 (Mistake would be 17... exf3? 18.♗xf3 and white atack will be very strong. For example 18... a6 is met by 19.♖xa6! bxa6 20.♕xa6 ♕c8 21.♕b5 ♘a7 22.♕a5→ +/− with huge atack for white and probably lost position for black.) 18.fxe4 ♗xc3 19.♗xc3 fxe4 20.b4 ♖he8 21.b5 ♘e7 22.♕b2 ♘ed5 23.♗d2 g5∞ with unclear game. I prefer here to be black, but this is maybe the matter of taste...

17... h5∓ 18.♗e1

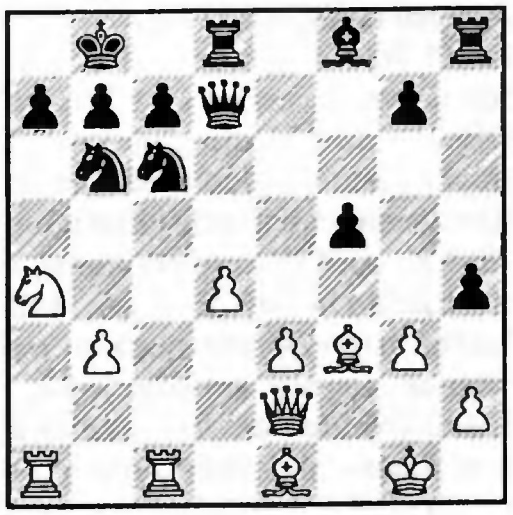
18.♘xb6 cxb6∓ is better for black.

18... h4 19.f3

This comes too late.

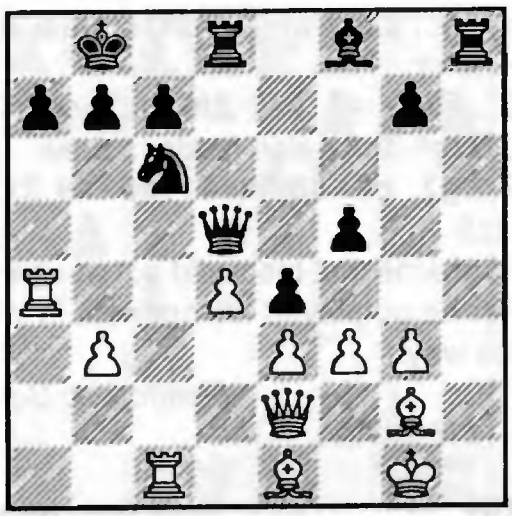
19... ♘xa4

Maybe it was better to play 19... exf3 20.♗xf3 (20.♕xf3 h3 21.♗h1 ♘d5 22.♘c3 (22.♘c5 ♗xc5 23.♖xc5 ♘ce7∓ and black is better) 22... ♘ce7∓ and with next c6 black holds quare d5 keeping better position.)



20... ♘d5 with an idea to make blokkade on d5 square. 21.♘c3 (21.♘c5 ♗xc5 22.♖xc5 ♕e6 23.♗d2 hxg3 24.hxg3 g5∓ and black has huge advantage.; 21.gxh4? f4!∓ and white cannot hold centre.) 21... ♘xc3 22.♖xc3 ♘b4 23.gxh4 ♘d5 24.♖c4 ♕e6∓ and despite the fact that white finally take back pawn his position is worse.

20.♖xa4 hxg3 21.hxg3 ♕d5

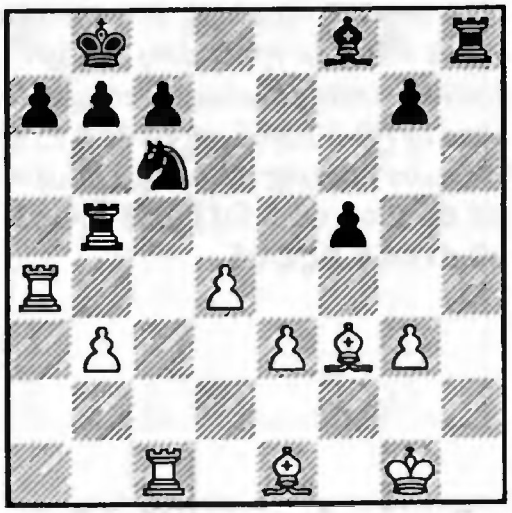


22.♕c4!

This is very good decision by white. He needs to change queens because white king can also be a target for atack as it shows next subline.

After 22.fxe4 fxe4 23.♕c2 ♗d6! 24.♕xe4 ♕h5∓ -> black has decisive atack.

22... exf3 23.♕xd5 ♖xd5 24.♗xf3 ♖b5?!



Better was 24... ♖d6! with an idea to play ♘e7 in next move. If white takes on c6: 25.♗xc6 after 25... ♖xc6 26.♖xc6 bxc6∓ black changes one pair of rooks and he holds a-pawn on board and his position is much better than in the game.

25.♖ca1?

White could play 25.♗xc6 bxc6 26.b4! ♖h6 27.♖ca1 ♖b7 28.♔g2∓ and black is better but thanks to white active pieces it is very hard for black to convert advantage into something real.

25... ♖xb3 26.♗xc6 bxc6 27.♖xa7 ♔c8 28.♖a8+ ♔d7∓

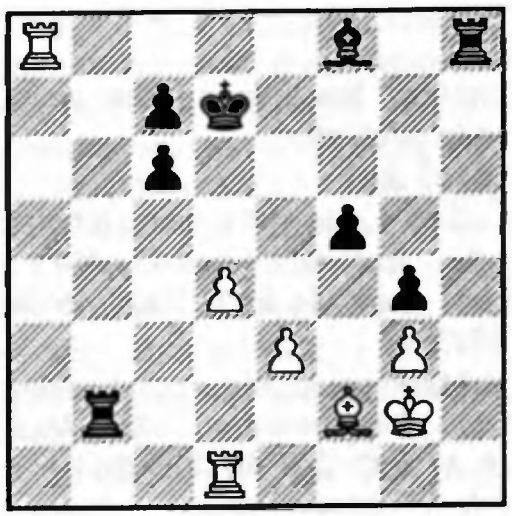
After some unprecise moves black again got clear advantage. White has hard task to defend this position.

29.♗f2 g6 30.♔g2 ♖b2 31.♖d1 g5

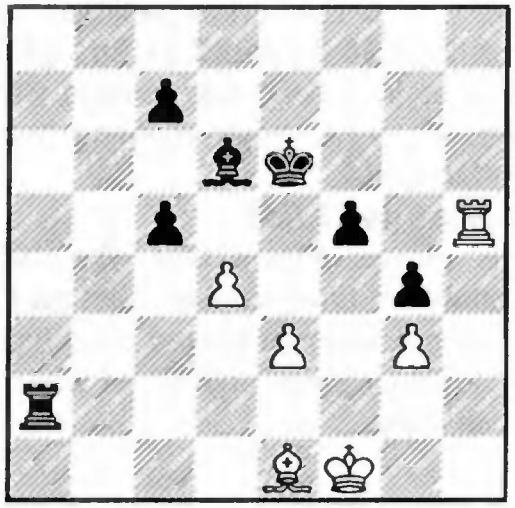
Black is improving his position while white does not have anything better than to wait.

32.♖da1 g4 33.♖d1

This moves shows that white was probably in time-trouble. Last part of the game was not played on a highest level by black and he let white to make draw.



33... ♗g7 34.♖xh8 ♗xh8 35.♖h1 ♗f6 36.♖h7+ ♗e7 37.♔f1
37.♖h6 c5-+
37... ♔e6 38.♗e1 ♗d6
Black did not want to change pawns with 38... c5 39.dxc5 ♗xc5 40.♖xc7 ♗xe3 41.♖c3 ♗d4 42.♖d3 ♗b6∓
39.♖h5
Keeping black king connected to weakness f5.
39... ♖c2 40.♗f2 ♖a2
It was right time for 40... c5!-+ with winning position.
41.♗e1 c5?!



Somehow black found the worsest time to push c5.
42.dxc5 ♗e7
42... ♗e5-+ was still winning for black.;
On 42... ♗xc5 white has 43.e4!∓
43.e4 fxe4 44.♗c3 ♖a3 45.♖e5+ ♔d7??
Still black could keep good chances on win after correct 45... ♔f7! 46.♗e1 ♖a4 47.♗d2 ♗f6 48.♖h5 ♗d4-+ and black should win game.
46.♗b4!= ♖f3+
On 46... ♖xg3 white makes draw with 47.c6+=;
46... ♖a1+ 47.♔e2 ♗f6 48.♖xe4 ♔c6 49.♖xg4 ♖a4= also leads to draw.
47.♔g2 c6 48.♖xe4 ♖f5 49.♖xg4 ♗xc5
It is shame that black did not win game after he outplayed his oponent in very nice way.
½-½ *[Predojevic,Borki]*

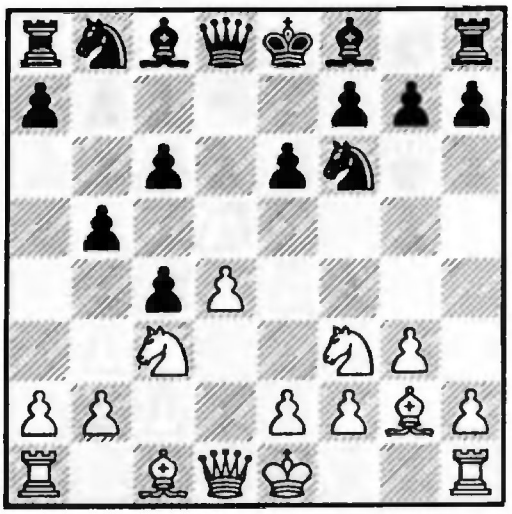
(39) **[E04]**

□ **Sokolov,Ivan (2643)**
■ **Vallejo Pons,F (2707)**

Nakhchivan Open Nakhchivan AZE (5), 27.04.2011

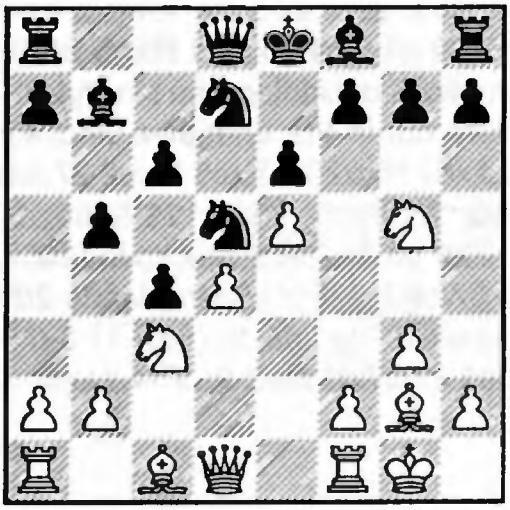
In one of the recently popular lines of a Catalan/Slav, Vallejo plays a new idea with 11... h5!?. Move has a plus to have stopped white ♕g4 (like in Nyzhnik game) and a minus to have weakenned g5 square. White later exchanges a dark squared bishops and gets a typical kind of positional compensation. Black position remains solid, so white does not get any objective winning chances. Perhaps, lines related to 7.0-0 ♗b7 8.e4 ♘bd7 9.e5 offer white more opening advantage prospects
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.g3 dxc4 6.♗g2 b5

www.chess-evolution.com



7.♘e5

the other popular continuation here is direct central pawn push 7.0-0 ♗b7 8.e4 ♘bd7 (8... b4 9.e5 is considered better for white) 9.e5 ♘d5 10.♘g5 white play ressembles Tolush–Makagonov gambit in Slav (1. d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♘f3 dxc4 5.e4 b5, etc)

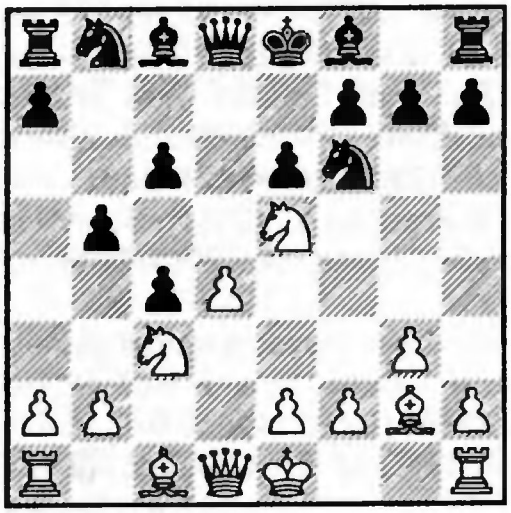


a) 10... ♗e7 11.♕h5 g6 12.♕h6 ♗f8 13.♕h3 ♘xc3 (13... ♗e7 14.♘ce4 bring black another set of problems) 14.bxc3 ♗e7 15.♕h6 ♗f8 16.♕h3 ♗e7 17.♘e4 a standard plan here 17... 0-0 18.a4 a6 19.♕h6 ♖e8 20.♗g5! again exchanging a darksquared bishops is a good idea for white here 20... ♗f8 21.♗xd8 (21.♕xf8+! ♖xf8 22.♗xd8 ♖axd8 23.♘d6 ♗a8 24.axb5 axb5 25.♖a7 ♘b6 26.♖fa1 ♘a4 27.♖a3±) 21... ♗xh6 22.♘d6 ♖exd8 23.♘xb7 ♖dc8 (23... ♗d2∞) 24.♘d6± 1/2-1/2 Moiseenko,A (2581)–Borovikov,V (2593)/Kramatorsk 2001/CBM 086 (31)

b) white has played a model game after 10... ♘7b6 11.♕h5 ♕d7 12.♘ce4 g6 13.♕h3 0-0-0 14.♘c5 ♕c7 15.♘ge4 ♘a4 16.♘xa4 bxa4 17.♗g5! (it is almost always a good idea for white to exchange a darksquared bishops here) 17... ♗e7 18.♗xe7 ♕xe7 19.♕h6 ♔b8 20.♖fc1 ♘b6 21.♘d6± (a total triumph of white on the dark squares) Tregubov, P (2628) – Dorfman, J (2608)/France 2004/EXT 2005 (35);

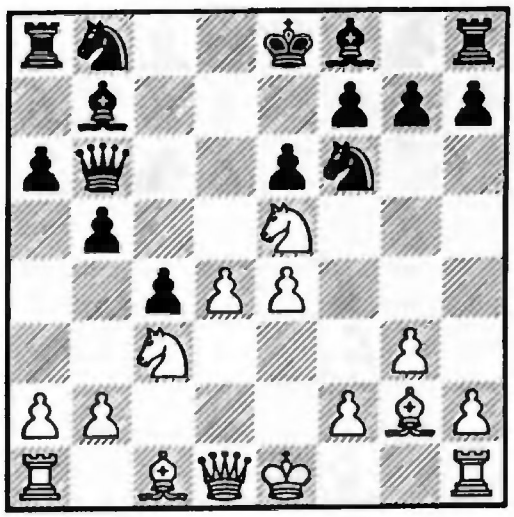
c) 10... ♘xc3 in general black is worried that white may take on d5 at some stage, forcing black to take back with a pawn (cxd5) and then start advancing his "f" pawn (f4,f5,etc). This early capture however gives white free hands here. 11.♕f3 (white was also successful with a very straightforward play 11.bxc3 ♗e7 12.♕h5 ♗xg5 13.♗xg5 ♕c7 14.f4 ♘f8 15.a4 h6 16.f5 exf5 17.♗h4 ♘g6 18.♖xf5 0-0 19.♖af1 ♖ae8 20.♗f6! ♗c8 21.♗xg7 and white soon won in Ivanisevic, I (2664) – Blagojevic, D (2519)/Niksic 2008/CBM 126 Extra (35)) 11... ♕e7 12.bxc3 ♘b6 13.♕h5 ♕d7 14.♘xh7 0-0-0 15.♘xf8 ♖xh5 16.♘xd7 ♖xd7 17.♗f3 ♖h8 18.♗d1 ♘d5 19.♗d2 a5 20.a3 a4

21.♖b1± 1-0 Khalifman, A (2616) – Sebag, M (2510)/ Moscow RUS 2010 (58);



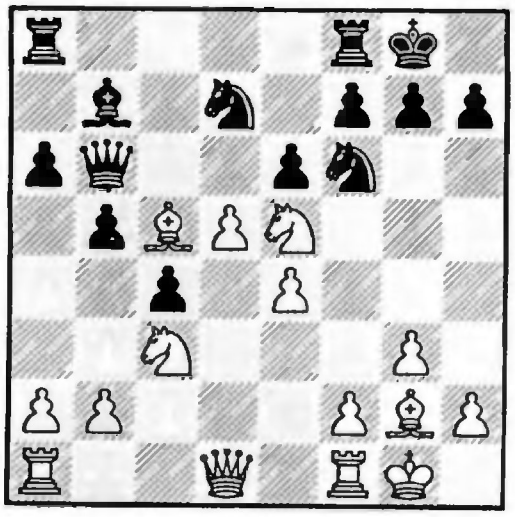
7... ♘d5

the other very popular move here at the moment is 7... a6 I was planning to follow the game of young Ukrainian and (actually would) transpose to the game 8.0-0 (taking on c6, does not bring white advantage (actually tables can easily turn) 8.♘xc6 ♕b6 9.♘e5 (or 9.♘xb8 ♗b7 10.e4 ♖xb8 11.0-0 ♖d8 12.♗e3 ♗e7 13.a3 0-0 14.♕e2 ♕c7 15.♗f4 ♕c8 16.♖fd1 ♕a8 17.f3 ♖c8 18.♗h3 ♖fe8 19.♗e3 ♗f8 with a complicated game in Matthiesen, A (2349) – Nielsen, P (2662)/Denmark 2009/EXT 2010 (69) (white should have here pushed his "g" pawn to take space on the kingside and try to seize initiative)) 9... ♗b7 10.e4



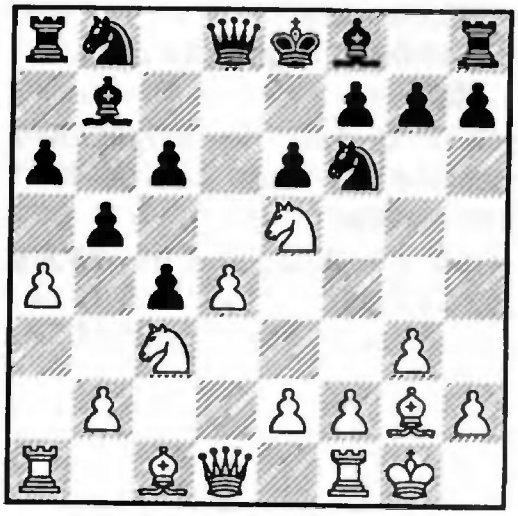
10... ♗b4! the most precise. This idea of Smeets (connected to a subsequent play) more or less kills this line for white! (another possibility is 10... ♘c6 11.♗e3 ♖d8 12.♘xc6 ♕xc6 13.0-0 ♗e7 14.a3 0-0 15.g4 white had to start kingside action, however this pawn would also be a weakness 15... e5 16.d5 ♕c7 17.g5 ♘d7 18.b4 cxb3 19.♕xb3 ♗c5 20.♗d2 ♘b6 21.♖fc1 ♕e7 22.a4 ♘c4 23.♗e1 ♕xg5 24.♘e2 complicated middlegame struggle now peters out in the endgame 24... ♘d2 25.♗xd2 ♕xd2 26.♖xc5 ♕xe2 27.axb5 axb5 28.♕xb5 ♕xb5 29.♖xb5 ♗c8 30.♖b6 g6 31.♖a5± Sokolov,I (2655)–Van Wely,L (2650)/Netherlands 2010/ Mega2010 Update 15 (65)) 11.0-0 0-0 12.d5 ♘bd7 13.♗e3 ♗c5 14.♗xc5

www.chess-evolution.com



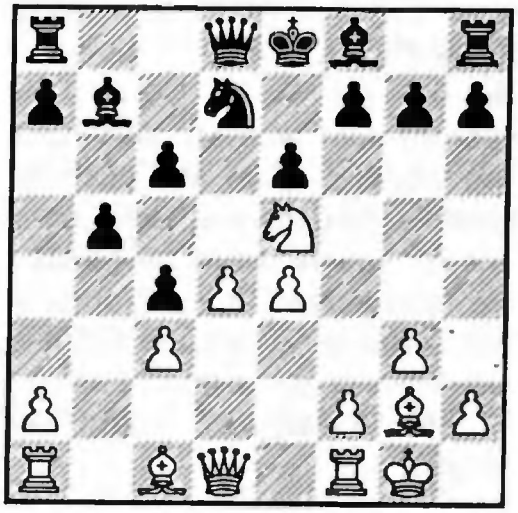
14... ♕xc5! Result of excellent opening preparation 15.♘xd7 ♘xd7 16.dxe6 ♘e5! black knight would be monster on d3. Black is already better 17.b4 ♕xb4 18.♕d4 ♘d3 19.♘d5 ♗xd5 20.exd5 ♕d6 21.exf7+ ♖xf7 22.a4 ♖b8 23.axb5 axb5 24.♖ad1 ♕b6 25.♕xb6 ♖xb6 and black queenside pawns have soon decided in Vachier Lagrave,M (2721)–Smeets,J (2669)/ Solingen GER 2010/The Week in Chess 836 (73))

8... ♗b7 9.a4



9... ♘d5 (9... ♕c8? lead to black disaster after 10.axb5± cxb5 (10... axb5 11.♖xa8 ♗xa8 12.♘xb5) 11.d5 ♗d6 12.♗f4 ♕c7 13.♘xf7! ♗xf4 14.♘xh8 ♗e5 15.dxe6+– 1-0 Kanter,E (2414)–Szabo,K (2528)/St. Petersburg RUS 2010 (22)) 10.e4 ♘xc3 11.bxc3 ♘d7 12.♗f4 ♗e7 (12... h5 would have followed on Vallejos idea) 13.♕g4 g6 14.axb5 axb5 15.♖xa8 ♗xa8 16.♗h6 black king is still stuck in the center, white initiative definitely (at least) is worth a pawn 16... ♗b7 17.♖a1↑ 1-0 Nyzhnyk,I (2530) –Van Kampen,R (2443)/Wijk aan Zee NED 2011/The Week in Chess 847 (58)

8.0-0 ♗b7 9.e4 ♘xc3 10.bxc3 ♘d7



11.♗f4!

Strongest for white here. Other moves are not dangerous for black

11.♘g4 ♗e7 12.e5 ♕b6 13.a4 a6 14.♘e3 g6 15.♖b1 ♕c7 16.f4 ♘b6 17.♗d2 ♖d8 18.♕c2 c5 19.♗xb7 ♕xb7 20.axb5 cxd4 21.bxa6 ♕xa6∓ 0-1 Avrukh,B (2641)–Rodshtein,M (2623)/ Natanya 2009/ CBM 131 Extra (38);

11.f4 ♗e7 12.♗e3 0-0 13.♕c2 f6 (13... ♘xe5 is option to consider) 14.♘f3 c5 15.♗h3 f5 16.exf5 exf5 17.♗xf5 ♘f6 18.dxc5 ♗xf3 19.♖xf3 ♕d5 20.♖f2 ♗xc5 21.♖d1 ♕xd1+ 22.♕xd1 ♗xe3∞ 1/2-1/2 Paunovic,D (2495)–Korneev,O (2671)/Seville 2006/EXT 2008 (44)

11... h5!?

Interesting idea of Vallejo. At expense of weakening his kingside, black does not allow white queen to g4 in the case of 11... ♗e7 I have planned to follow on Nyzhnik game with 12.a4 a6 13.♕g4

12.a4 a6 13.♘f3 ♘b6

Black spends tempi in order to define situation on the queenside

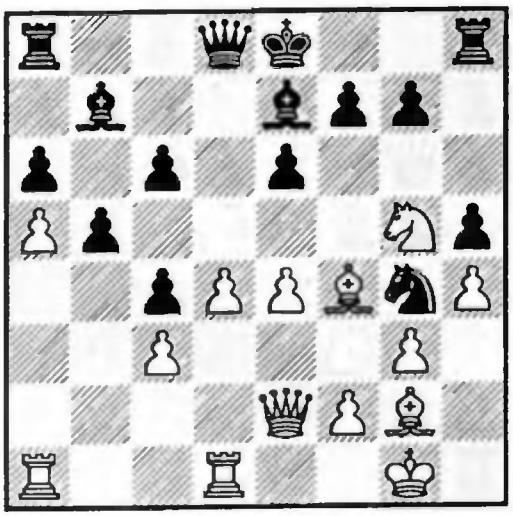
14.a5 ♘d7

Naturally black should not allow exchange sacrifice 14... ♘a4? 15.♖xa4 bxa4 16.♕xa4±

15.h4

I was not sure whether black in the future would prepare and push "h4", however I thought that fixing control of the g5 square would be handy for white (and indeed, it is). It does however surrender g4 square and this is where black knight is now heading to

15... ♘f6 16.♕e2 ♗e7 17.♖fd1 ♘g4 18.♘g5



In general black would like to castle queenside. White is preventing it. Also black has to constantly count with white d4–d5 central pawn break. Again exchanging a dark squared bishops puts accent on weak dark squares (d6 and c5) in black camp and is strategically good for white

18... ♕d7 19.e5

White gives up on d4–d5 pawn break and prepares to (after exchanging dark squared bishops) transfer his knight to c5. Black knight on g4 is now also stranded

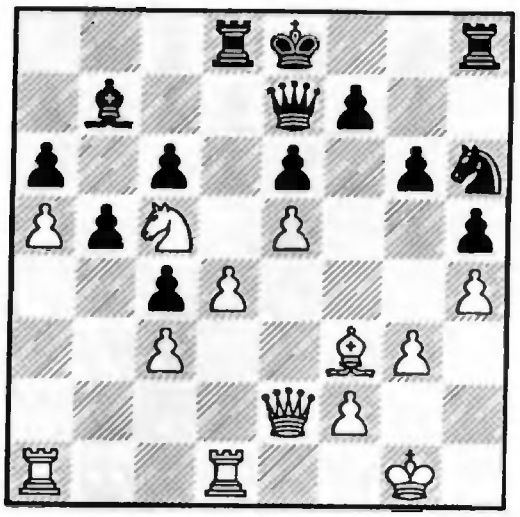
19... ♕c7 20.♗f3

20.♘e4? 0-0-0 is good for black

20... ♖d8

Black king can no longer castle queenside, so white can go for his knight transfer

21.♘e4 g6 22.♗g5 ♘h6 23.♗xe7 ♕xe7 24.♘c5±

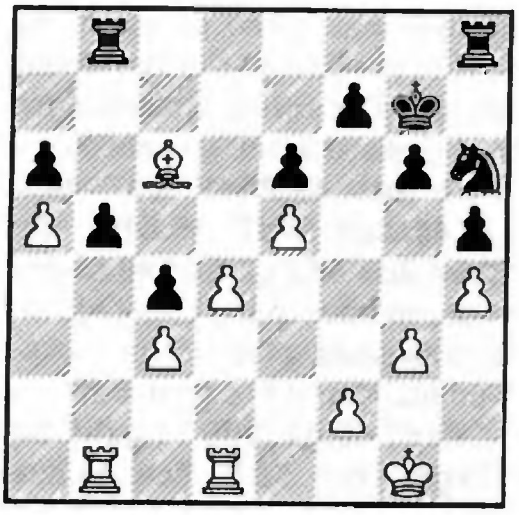


Jumping 24.♘d6+?! does not threaten anything in particular, while black gets a possibility of exchange sac on d6

24... ♔f8

White has achieved his strategic objectives, however black position is solid and it is difficult for white to make progress. White has a wonderful knight on c5, while black has one big pawn (which calls himself bishop) on b7. Problem for white is that black kingside is solid. Should white ever move his knight from c5, than black can play c5 and big pawn on b7 would transform into a bishop again. Not seeing the way to improve, I have decided (with sadness in my heart) to exchange my beautiful ♘c5 for black terrible ♗b7 and collect black c6 pawn. Game now quickly reaches drawish character

25.♖ab1 ♖b8 26.♕e4 ♔g7 27.♘xb7 ♕xb7 28.♕xc6 ♕xc6 29.♗xc6



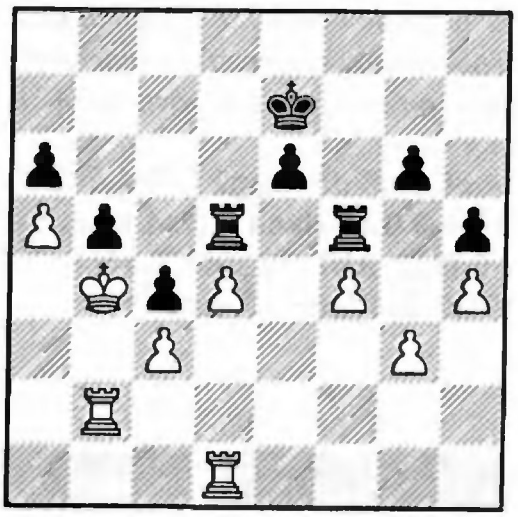
29... ♘f5 30.♗e4 ♘e7 31.♔f1 ♖hc8

Putting black knight to d5 looks like an easier draw

32.♔e2 ♘c6 33.♗xc6 ♖xc6 34.♔d2 ♖d8 35.♔c2

White king heads to b4. White advantage is however minimal and black easily holds

35... ♖d5 36.♔b2 f6 37.exf6+ ♔xf6 38.f4 ♖cd6 39.♔a3 ♖f5 40.♔b4‡ ♔e7 41.♖b2 ♖dd5



White still has some pressure, main plan is to execute g4 (and try to target black e6,g6 pawns), however there are no realistic winning chances
42.♖e2 ♖d6 43.♖de1 ♔d7 44.♖e5 ♔e7 45.♔c5 ♔d7 46.♖1e2 ♖c6+ 47.♔b4 ♖d6 48.♖g2 ♖d5 49.♖xd5+?!
In order to have some chances, white had to execute g4 with four rooks on the board. Now it is a total draw
49... ♖xd5 50.g4 ♔d6 51.gxh5 ♖xh5 52.♖xg6 ♖xh4 53.f5 ♖e4 54.♖xe6+ ½-½ *[I.Sokolov]*

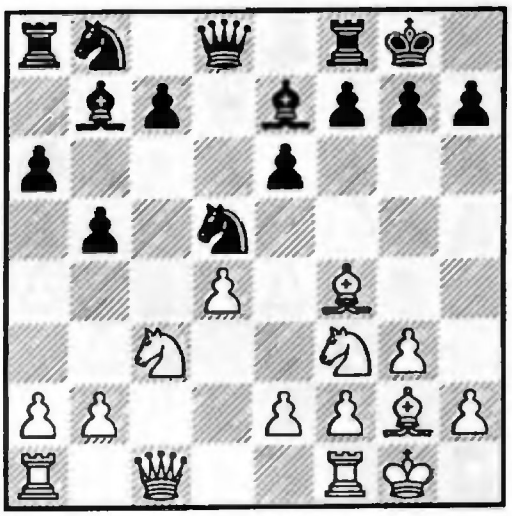
(40) [E05]

☐ **Andreikin,Dmitry (2687)**
■ **Bruzon Batista,Lazaro (2693)**

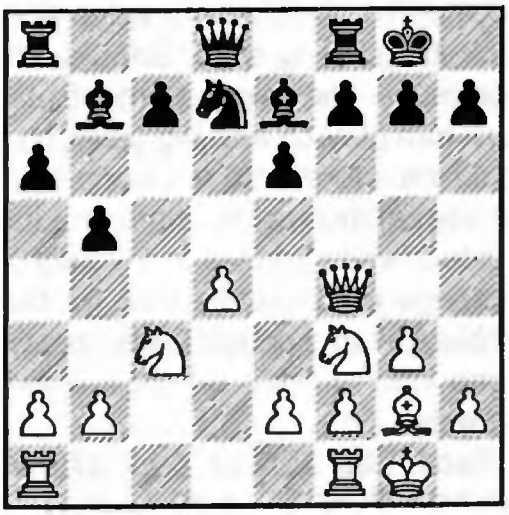
46th Capablanca Memorial Elite Havana CUB (1), 11.05.2011

We have to admit that W. Steinitz, the first World Champion, was really a genius. More than a century ago he said that the king is the strongest piece and the following game just confirms his impression. After a subtle novelty in a typical Catalan, Andreikin shows a great understanding in a nice endgame a pawn down but... a king more!

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.♗g2 ♘f6 4.♘f3 ♗e7 5.0-0 0-0 6.d4 dxc4 7.♕a4 a6 8.♕xc4 b5 9.♕c2 ♗b7 10.♗d2 ♗e4 11.♕c1 ♗b7 12.♗f4 ♘d5 13.♘c3



13.♖d1 ♘xf4 14.♕xf4 ♗d6 15.♕h4 ♕xh4 16.♘xh4 Kramnik-Radjabov, Candidates (2) Kazan 2011
13... ♘xf4 14.♕xf4 ♘d7
14... c5 15.dxc5 ♗xc5 16.♖fd1 (16.a4 bxa4 17.♘xa4 ♗d6 18.♕e3 Grischuk-Karpov, Memorial Tal (Blitz) 2008) 16... ♕b6 17.♘e5 ♖a7 Vaganian-Andersson, Leningrad 1987

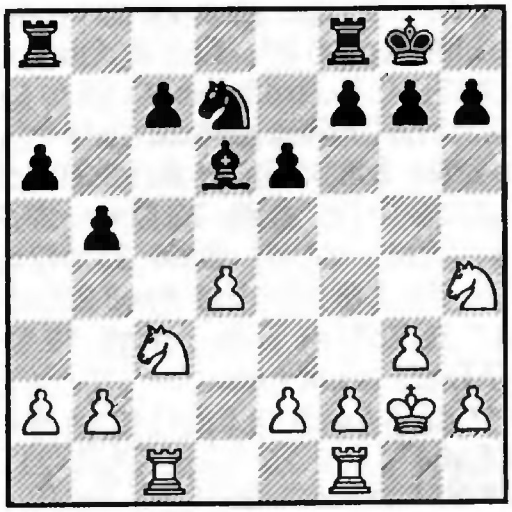


15.♖ac1!?N
It is not easy to evaluate exactly this new move. It is true that now the a2-

www.chess-evolution.com

♖xa3) 19... ♖axd8 20.♗xf3 b4 21.♘e4 ♘xe4 22.♗xe4 ♗e5=) 19.♘xh4 ♗xg2 20.♖xd6 ♗b7 21.b4 ♘e4 22.♘xe4 ♗xe4=;

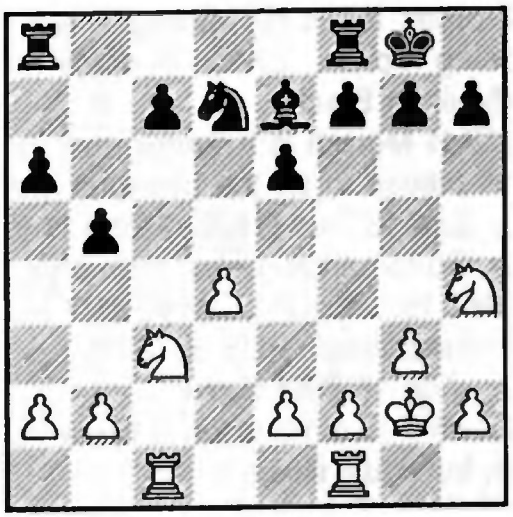
17.♘xh4 ♗xg2 18.♔xg2



After a logical series of moves, a typical "advanced middlegame" of the Catalan arises. White is trying to stop the advance of Black's c pawn by any means. The position is close to equality, but the defender has to find a good plan and it is still needed to play carefully in order to avoid a very passive endgame.

18... ♘f6

18... ♗e7!?



a) 19.♘e4 f5! 20.♖xc7 fxe4 21.♖xd7 ♖f7 22.♖c1!? (22.f4 ♖c8! 23.e3 g5 24.fxg5 ♖c2+ 25.♔g1 ♖xf1+ 26.♔xf1 ♗xg5 27.♘g2 ♖c1+ 28.♔f2 ♖c2+=; 22.d5 ♗xh4 23.♖xf7 ♔xf7 24.dxe6+ ♔xe6 25.gxh4 ♖c8∓) 22... g5 23.♖cc7 ♖e8 24.d5! ♖g7! 25.f4! gxh4 26.dxe6 ♗f6 27.♖xg7+ ♗xg7 28.f5⩱

b) 19.♘f3 c5 20.♖fd1 ♖fd8 Kramnik–Radjabov ramnik–Radjabov ramnik–Radjabov by transposition!;

c) 19.♖fd1 c5 20.d5!? (20.♘f3 ♖fd8 We know already this position!) 20... ♖ad8 (20... exd5? 21.♘f5 ♖fe8 22.♘xe7+ ♖xe7 23.♘xd5 ♖xe2 24.♘c7 ♖d8 25.♖xc5 ♔f8 26.♖cd5 ♔e7 27.♘xa6 With a pawn up and mortal pin.; 20... ♗xh4 21.gxh4 ♘b6 22.dxe6 fxe6 23.♘e4 c4 24.♖d6 ♘d5 Seems, black is OK here.) 21.♘f3 ♘b6 roughly equal;

19.♘f3 ♖fc8 20.♘d2!

Again played against... c7–c5, after which the "fork" ♘ce4 can follow.

Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs

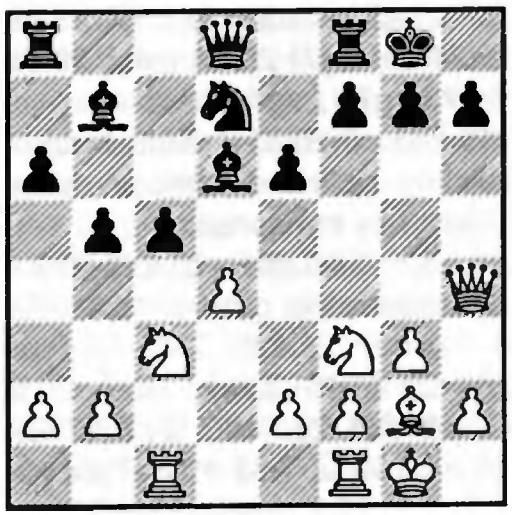
a4 break loses his strenght, but the freeing move... c7–c5 became more difficult for Black.

15.♖fd1 More à la Kramnik, this move was played in all the previous game. 15...♗d6 16.♘e5 (16.♕e3 ♘b6 17.♕d3 c5= Ponomariov–Leko, Memorial Tal 2009) 16... ♗xg2 17.♔xg2 f5!? Maslak–Riazantzev, RUS ch 2008;

15... ♗d6 16.♕h4 ♕xh4

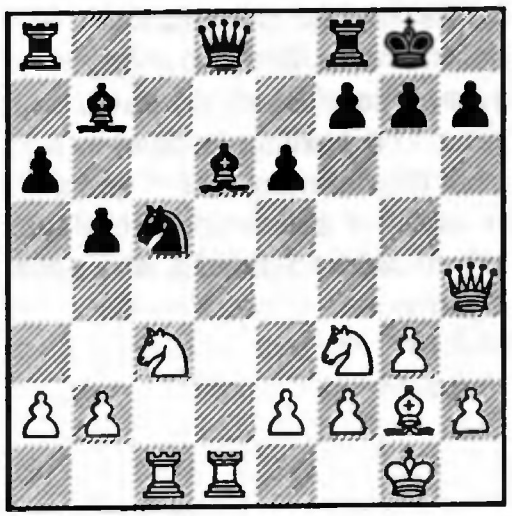
16... c5!? This move looks like a blunder, but it just illusion.

a)17.♖fd1 This is the best attempt. 17... ♕xh4 18.♘xh4 ♗xg2 19.♔xg2 ♗e7 (19... ♘f6 20.dxc5 ♗xc5 21.♘xb5 ♗xf2 22.♘c7 ♗e3 23.♘xa8 ♗xc1 24.♖xc1 ♖xa8 25.♘f3±) 20.d5 ♖ad8 21.♘f3 ♘b6 22.dxe6 fxe6 23.♘e4 c4=

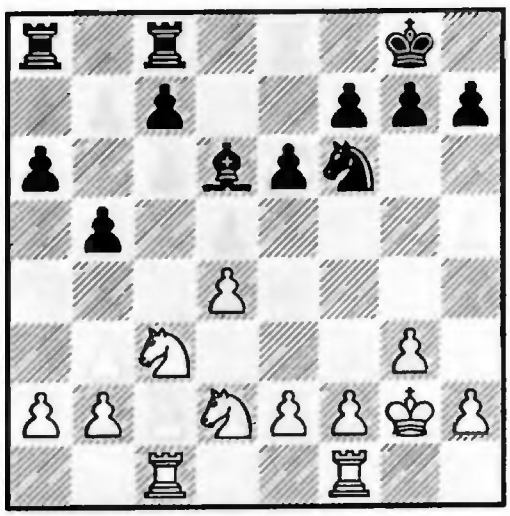


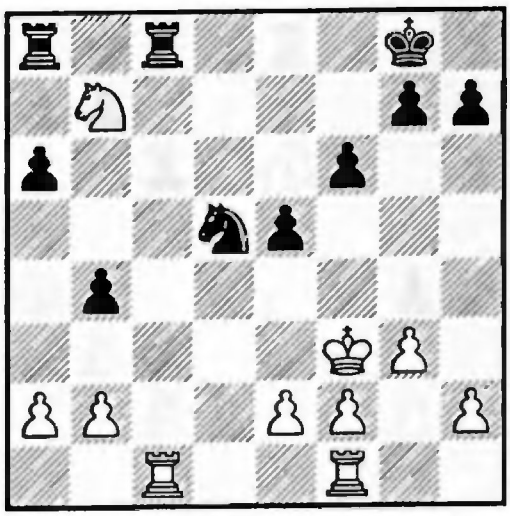
b) 17.♘g5 h6□ 18.♗xb7 (18.♘xe6 ♕xh4 19.gxh4 ♗xg2 20.♘xf8 ♗xf1 21.♘xd7 cxd4 22.♔xf1 (22.♘e4 ♗xe2 23.♘xd6 d3 (23... ♖d8 24.♖c7 ♗g4 25.♘e5 ♖xd6 26.♘xg4 ♖g6 27.h3 h5 28.f3 f5 29.♖d7 hxg4 30.hxg4 fxg4 31.♔g2 ♖c6 32.fxg4 ♖c2+ 33.♔f3 ♖xb2 34.g5 ♖xa2 35.g6 ♔f8 36.♖f7+=) 24.♘e4 ♖d8 25.♖c7 (25.♘dc5 d2 26.♘xd2 ♖xd2 27.a3 (27.♘xa6?? ♖d6 28.♘b4 ♖g6+ 29.♔h1 ♗f3#) 27... b4 28.♖b1 ♖d4∓) 25... ♖e8 26.♘ef6+ (26.♘d2 ♗g4 and with a piece up but at the same time can't manage to win. 27.♘c5 (27.♔g2 ♖e2 28.♖c8+ ♔h7 29.♘f8+ ♔g8=) 27... ♖e2 28.♘cb3 a5! 29.♖c3 a4 30.♖xd3 axb3∓) 26... gxf6 (26... ♔h8 27.♘e5 gxf6 28.♘xf7+ ♔g7 29.♘d6+ ♔f8 30.♘xe8 ♔xe8 31.♖c8+ ♔e7 32.♖c7+ ♔e6 33.♖c6+ ♔e7= (33... ♔e5? 34.f4+ ♔xf4 35.♔f2±)) 27.♘xf6+ ♔f8 28.♘xe8 ♔xe8 29.♖c8+ ♔e7 30.♖c7+=)) 18... hxg5 19.♕e4 ♖a7 Black is OK here.;

c) 17.dxc5 ♘xc5 18.♖fd1 (18.b4 ♕xh4 19.♘xh4 ♗xg2 20.♔xg2 ♘b7! 21.a3 ♗e7 22.♘f3 ♘d6 With minimum equality chances for Black.)



18... ♕xh4! (18... ♗xf3 19.♕xd8 (19.♗xf3 ♕xh4 20.gxh4 ♖ad8 21.b4 ♘a4 22.♘xa4 bxa4 23.a3 g6 24.♗b7 ♗e5 25.♖b1 ♖xd1+ 26.♖xd1 ♗b2 27.♖d3 ♖b8 28.♗xa6 ♖b6 29.♗c4 ♖c6 30.♗b5 ♖c1+ 31.♔g2 ♖a1 32.♗xa4





20... e5!

The right answer. Now Black is very close to equalize.

21.d5 b4 22.♘ce4 ♘xd5 23.♘xd6 cxd6 24.♘e4 f6?

Though close to equality, the Black's position is quite unpleasant. He has many weeknesses on the queensi-de and slightly passive pieces in this symmetrical position. Sooner or la-ter the text-move is required, but the most important thing was to prevent the invasion of the white rook along the c file.

24... ♘e7! 25.♘xd6 ♖xc1 26.♖xc1 ♖d8 27.♘c4 f6= (27... ♖c8 28.♖d1!±)

25.♘xd6 ♖d8 26.♘b7 ♖dc8

26... ♖d7 27.♘c5 ♖c7 28.♖fd1 ♘e7 29.♘d3 ♖xc1 30.♖xc1 a5 31.♖c5 ♔f7 32.♔f3 ♔e6 33.e4 ♔d6 34.♔e3 ♘c6 35.f4± With a pleasant endgame for White.

27.♔f3!

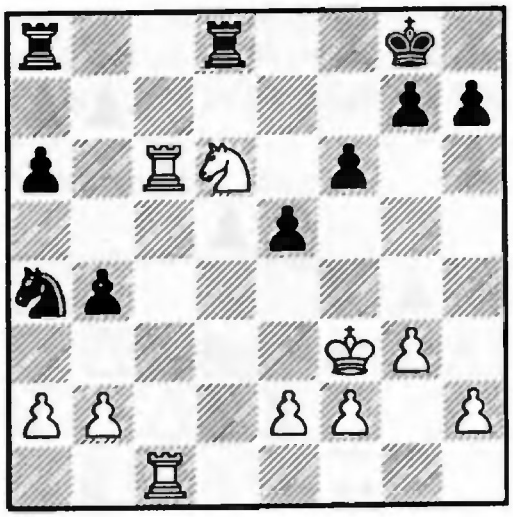
A very nice idea. The king is the ideal piece to take advantage of the white squares weekened from the move 24... f6. Black's pieces are not able to stop this amazing king's march.

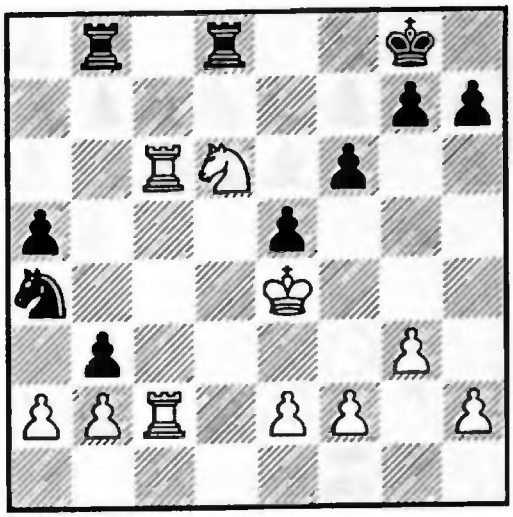
27... ♘b6

27... f5!? Was a strong remedy – too strong, perhaps! In many endga-mes White can use the weakness of the opponent's "advanced" pawns. 28.♘d6 e4+ 29.♔g2 ♖xc1 30.♖xc1 g6 31.♖c5 ♘e7 32.♘c4! ♖c8 33.♖xc8+ ♘xc8 34.f3±; 27... ♘e7 28.♔e4±

28.♘d6 ♖d8 29.♖c6 ♘a4 30.♖fc1

30.g4 I like this move more, to se-cure a beautiful square for white knight, for example: 30... a5 31.♖b1 ♖a7 (31... ♖ab8 32.♘c4 ♖b5 33.♖a6 ♖dd5 34.♖a8+ ♔f7 35.♖a7+ ♔f8 36.♖c1 ♖bc5 37.b3 ♘c3 38.♘b6 ♘b5 39.♘xd5 ♖xc1 40.♖xa5 ♘d4+ 41.♔e4 ♘xe2 42.♘xb4±) 32.♘e4±





30... a5

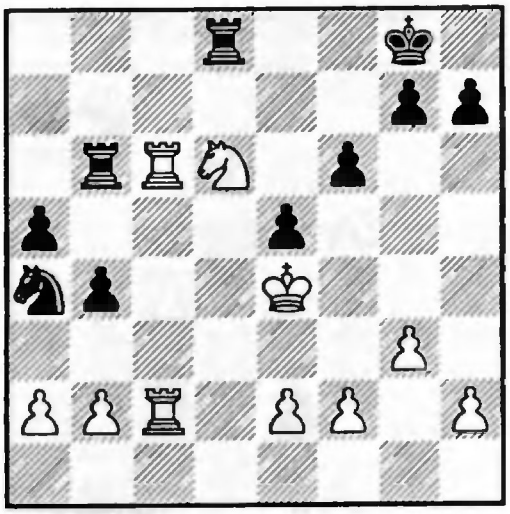
30... ♘xb2? 31.♖b1 ♘a4 32.♖xb4 ♘c5 33.♘f5 ♘d7 34.♖c7+−

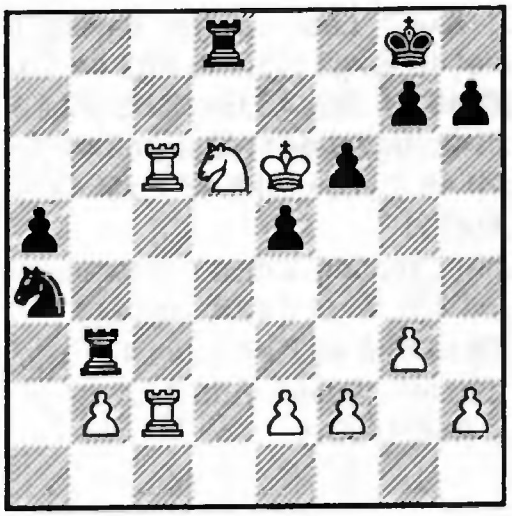
31.♖1c2 ♖ab8 32.♔e4

32.e3! was better, and after 32... b3 33.axb3 ♖xb3 34.♖c8 ♖b8 (34... ♖f8 35.♘f5 ♖xb2 36.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 37.♖c8+ ♔f7 38.♖c7+ ♔f8 39.♘xg7 (39.♖xg7? e4+ 40.♔xe4 (40.♔g2 ♖b5 41.♘d6 ♔xg7 42.♘xb5 ♘c5∓; 40.♔g4?? h5+ 41.♔xh5 ♖xf2 42.♔g6 ♖xf5 43.♖f7+ ♔e8-+) 40... ♖xf2 41.♖c7 ♖xh2=) 39... ♘c5 40.♖xc5 ♔xg7 41.♖xa5±) 35.♖xb8 ♖xb8 36.b3! ♘b6 37.♖c7 a4 38.bxa4 ♘xa4 39.♘f5 g6 40.♘e7+ ♔h8 41.♘d5 ♖f8 42.g4! With a big advantage, almost winning of White.

32... ♖b6?!

32... b3! was the best try! 33.axb3 ♖xb3 34.♖c8 ♖f8 35.♘f5 ♖xb2 36.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 37.♖c8+ ♔f7 38.♖c7+ ♔f8 and now we see difference of 32.e3 instead of text move 32.♔e4 39.♘xg7 ♖xe2+ 40.♔f3 (40.♔d5 ♖d2+ 41.♔e6 ♘c5+ 42.♖xc5 ♔xg7 43.f4 exf4 44.gxf4 ♖xh2 45.♖c7+ ♔h6 46.♔xf6=) 40... ♖b2 41.♘e6+ ♔e8 42.♖xh7 ♘c3 43.h4 e4+ 44.♔e3 a4 45.h5 a3 46.h6 a2 47.♖a7 ♖e2+ 48.♔d4 (48.♔f4 ♖xf2+ 49.♔g4 ♖h2 50.♘g7+ ♔f8 51.♘h5 ♘d5 52.h7 ♘e3+ 53.♔f4 ♖xh5 54.♔xe3 ♖xh7 55.♖a8+ ♔f7 56.♖xa2 f5 57.♖a7+ ♔g6 58.♖xh7 ♔xh7 59.g4 ♔g6 60.gxf5+ ♔xf5=) 48... ♘b5+ 49.♔c5 ♘xa7 50.h7 a1♕ 51.h8♕+ ♔e7 52.♕d8+ ♔xe6 53.♕e8+ ♔f5 54.♕h5+=





33.♔d5

This is a nice idea, but objectively, the following would be better 33.♖xb6 ♘xb6 34.♖c6 ♘a4 35.♘c4 Hard to advice Black on anything good here 35... ♔f7 (35... ♘xb2 36.♘xb2 ♖d2 37.♘c4 ♖xe2+ 38.♔f3 ♖xa2 39.♖b6 and after Rb5 White takes one of the Black's pawn and has good chances to win.; 35... ♖d1 36.♔f5!±) 36.♔f3 ♖d1 37.♖a6 ♖a1 38.♖xa5 ♖xa2 39.♘b6 ♘c3 40.♖xa2 ♘xa2 41.♔e3 ♔e6 42.♔d2 black knight is trapped and it will cost a pawn to resque it, for example: 42... ♔d6 43.♘c4+ ♔d5 44.♘a5 ♔c5 45.♔c2 ♔b5 46.♘b3 ♔c4 47.♘d2+ ♔d5 48.♔b1 b3 49.♘xb3 ♘b4 50.♘a1!+−

33... b3 34.axb3 ♖xb3 35.♔e6

www.chess-evolution.com

The White's king is no less impressive here than his "colleague" in the famous Short−Timman. Even at the cost of the b2 pawn, White can create very serious threats using his well coordinated pieces against the opponent's kingside.

35... ♖xb2 36.♖xb2 ♘xb2 37.♖a6 a4 38.f4

Preventing any counterplay based on... ♘d1 and following the plan of creating a dangerous passed pawn along the e file.

38... exf4 39.gxf4 h5!

The best defence, Black's king needs a bit of space.

40.♖a7 ♔h7?

A mistake on 40 move! Correct was: 40... ♖b8! for example: 41.e4 ♘d3 42.♔f5 ♖b6 43.e5 ♖b4 44.♘e4 g6+ 45.♔xg6 ♘xf4+ 46.♔f5 fxe5 47.♘f6+ ♔f8 48.♖d7=

41.♘f5 ♖e8+ 42.♔f7

This is the point! The f7 square is now available for the tireless white king.

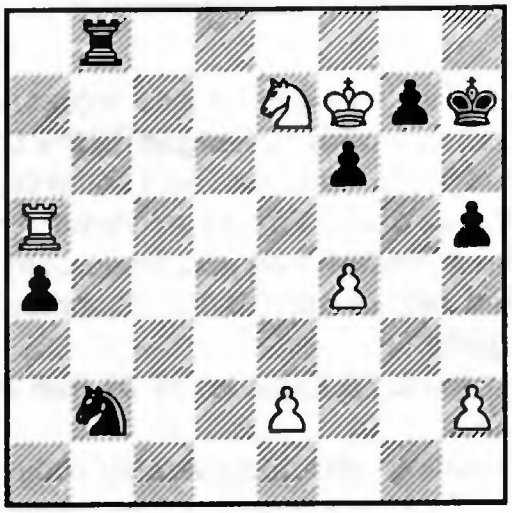
42... ♖g8

42... ♖xe2! Last call for saving the game! 43.♘xg7 (43.♔f8 ♖g2 44.♘xg7 ♔g6 45.h4 ♖f2 46.f5+ ♖xf5 47.♘xf5 ♔xf5 48.♔g7 ♔g4=) 43... ♘d3 44.♔xf6 ♘xf4! 45.♘xh5+ ♔h6 46.♘xf4 ♖xh2=

43.♘e7?!

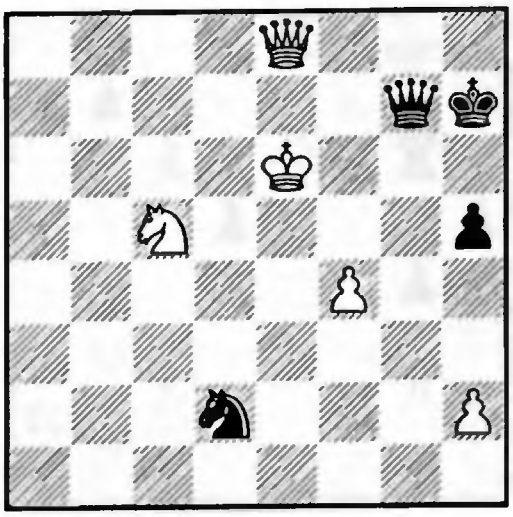
43.h4! Creating a nice zugzwang position! 43... ♘d1 44.e4 ♘c3 (44... ♘f2 45.♖xa4 ♖b8 46.♖a7 ♘xe4 47.♘xg7±) 45.e5 fxe5 46.fxe5 ♘d5 47.♖xa4±

43... ♖b8 44.♖a5



44... g6?

44... f5!! A fantastic defensive resource. With a double pawn-sac Black is in time to parry the opponent's deadly threats. 45.♖xf5 (45.♘xf5 ♖b4! (45... ♖b7+ 46.♘e7 ♖b6 47.♘d5 ♖b7+ 48.♔e6 ♖b3 49.e4 a3 50.♔f7 ♘c4?? 51.♘f6+) 46.♘d4 g6 47.♘e6 ♘c4 48.♖a6 ♔h6 49.♘c5 a3 50.♖xg6+ ♔h7 51.♖a6 ♖b6! 52.♖xb6 (52.♖a7 ♖g6=) 52... ♘xb6 53.e4 ♘c4 54.e5 ♘d2 55.e6 a2 56.e7 a1♕ 57.e8♕ ♕g7+ (57... ♕a7+ 58.♕d7 ♕xd7+ 59.♘xd7 ♘f3 60.h3 h4 61.♘f6+ ♔h6 62.♘g4+ ♔h7 63.♔f6+-) 58.♔e6



58... ♘f3!! 59.♕xh5+ ♕h6+ 60.♕xh6+ ♔xh6 61.h3 (61.f5 ♘xh2= 62.f6 ♘f3 63.♔e7 ♔h7 64.♘d7 ♘g5 65.♘e5 ♔g8=) 61... ♘g1=) 45... ♖b6 46.♖xh5+ ♖h6 47.♖xh6+ ♔xh6 48.♘d5 a3 49.♘b4 ♘c4 50.♔e6 ♘e3=

45.♘xg6

Now game is over!

45... ♖b7+ 46.♘e7 ♔h6 47.♔xf6 ♘c4

48.♘f5+

An interesting game! **1-0** *[B.Jobava]*

(41) **[E20]**

□ **Bacrot,E (2705)**

■ **Rozentalis,E (2573)**

French League Mulhouse FRA (6), 31.05.2011

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.g3 c5 5.♘f3 b6

I have been playing the g3 line against the Nimzo but I must confess that... b6 is not the most solid line.

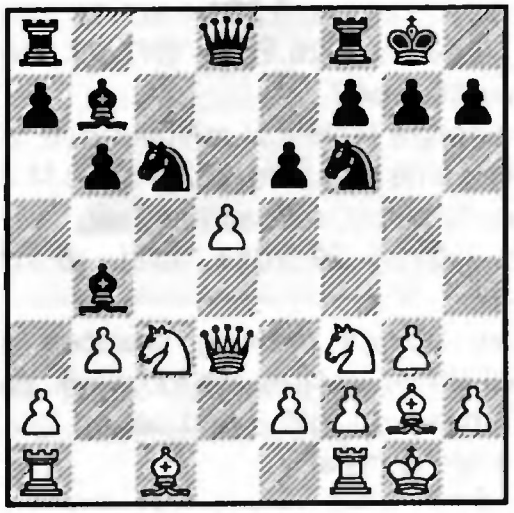
6.♗g2 ♗b7 7.0-0 cxd4

7... ♗xc3!? Jobava's move.

8.♕xd4 ♘c6 9.♕d3 0-0 10.b3 d5

A logical break in the center. Black's pieces Are not well placed for a "Hedgehog".

11.cxd5



11... ♘xd5?!

A first positional concession. More testing for theory is 11... ♘e7 12.♗d2 ♖c8 (12... ♗xc3 13.♗xc3 ♕xd5 14.♕c2 ♕f5 15.♕b2 ♗xf3 16.♗xf3 (Bacrot-Bartel 2010) where I enjoyed a good position with the bishop pair.) 13.e4 ♗xc3 14.♗xc3 ♘xe4 15.♗xg7 ♔xg7 16.♕xe4 with a slight plus for White. Black's King is somewhat weak, Topalov-Anand 2007.

12.♘xd5 ♕xd5 13.♕xd5 exd5 14.♗b2

White has an easy endgame and is ready to pressure the fixed d5 pawn. Black minor pieces lack of coordination to assume a passive defence, especially the bishop on "b7". My opponent logicially switches to active play.

14... ♗a6 15.♖fc1 ♖ac8 16.♗h3

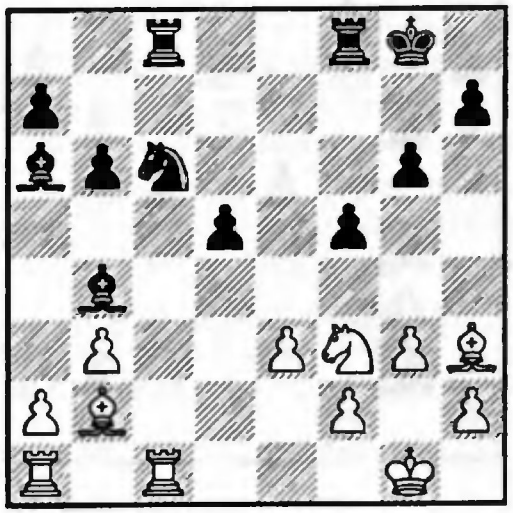
A good move which creates an additional weakness on Black's side.

16... f5

16... ♖c7 17.♗e5!+-

17.e3 g6

Too prophylactic. 17... ♗e7 was better to let the active b4 square for the Knight.



18.♗g2

Mission accomplished! The Bishop has done the job and gets back to the basement. New mission: keeping pressure over the isolani.

18... ♘e7 19.♘d4

I had a long thought over this move. It's time to be precise and to convert the positional advantage. For example 19.♘e5 is misleading: 19... ♖fd8 20.a3 ♗d2! and Black surprisingly holds.

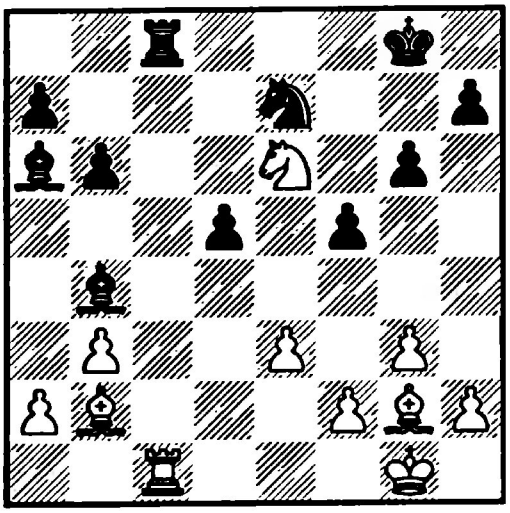
19... ♖fd8

19... ♖xc1+ 20.♖xc1 ♖c8 21.♖xc8+ ♗xc8 22.♘c6! is one of the points of my 19th move.; 19... ♗d2 20.♖d1 (20.♖c6 is also interesting) 20... ♗c3 21.♗xc3 ♖xc3 22.♘e6 ♖fc8 23.♘f4 and the d pawn is lost.

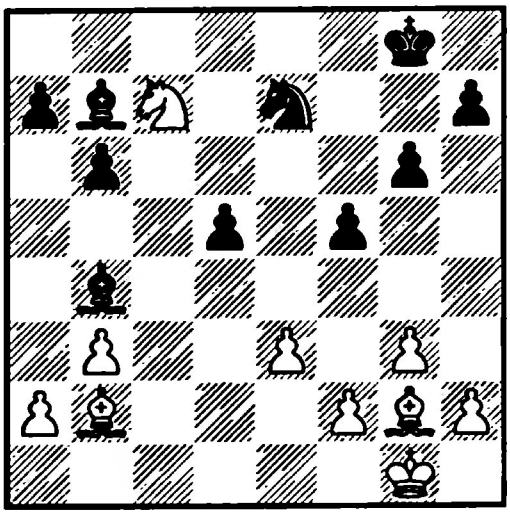
20.♘e6 ♖xc1+

Rather automatic and obvious but my opponent missed the point on White's

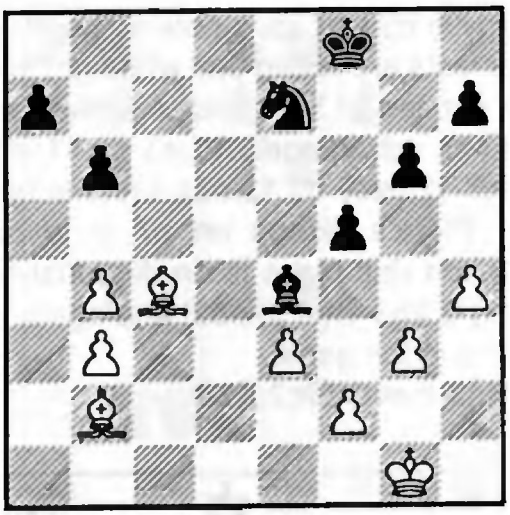
24th. Saving material and conceding the c file is not much better:
20... ♖d7 21.♖xc8+ ♗xc8 22.♖c1±
21.♖xc1 ♖c8



22.♖c7
22.♖xc8+ ♗xc8 23.♘f4 ♗b7 24.♗f6 ♔f7 25.♗xe7 ♔xe7 26.♗xd5 g5 (26... ♗c8!? with good drawing chances since the "h" pawn is taboo: 27.♗g8 ♗d6 28.♗xh7 ♗xf4 29.exf4 ♔f7 and White's Bishop is lost.) 27.♗xb7 gxf4 with a likely draw.
22... ♖xc7 23.♘xc7 ♗b7



24.a3!!
The key move of the game. Now White wins a healthy pawn.
24... ♗d6
24... ♗d2 25.♔f1 and the Bishop is trapped.; 24... ♗c5 25.b4 ♗d6 26.♘e8±
25.♘e8 ♘c8 26.♘f6+ ♔f7 27.♘xd5 ♗a6 28.♘b4?
A strange technical mistake due to a slight time pressure. 28.e4 or 28.f4 are clearly better, with an easy win.
28... ♗xb4 29.♗d5+ ♔f8! 30.axb4 ♘e7
Now Black's drawing chances are real. White squares are too weak. With the pawn on "g2" – and not on "g3" – the win is trivial.
31.♗e6
I cannot keep the Bishop on the long diagonal: "b3" is too weak. 31.♗f3 ♗d3 32.♗d1 ♘d5=
31... ♗b7 32.♗c4
32.h4 ♗d5=
32... ♗e4?
During the game, I felt this was the decisive mistake. The Bishop is much more useful on "f3", but the best is definitely 32... g5, and I am not sure whether White is winning. At least, with natural moves, Black is not far from the draw: 33.h4 (33.♗f6 g4 34.♗xe7+ ♔xe7 and Black's position seems unbreakable.) 33... g4 34.b5 ♗f3 35.♗e5 ♔e8 36.♔f1 ♘d5 37.♔e1 h5 38.♔d2 ♗e4
33.h4!



Now Black cannot expand on the kingside without creating new weaknesses.

33... h6 34.b5 ♘d5 35.♗e5 ♔e7 36.♔f1 g5

Black is trying to use my time pressure to complicate matters, but the solution is very simple.

37.♗g7! gxh4 38.gxh4 h5 39.♔e2 ♘f6 40.♗h6

My structure is not cramped anymore and my Bishop is working on active squares. White's position is completely winning.

40... ♘d7 41.♗g5+ ♔e8 42.♗f4 ♔e7 43.♔d2 ♗f3 44.♔c3 ♘c5 45.♔d4 ♔f6 46.♗b8 1-0 *[E. Bacrot]*

(42) [E21]

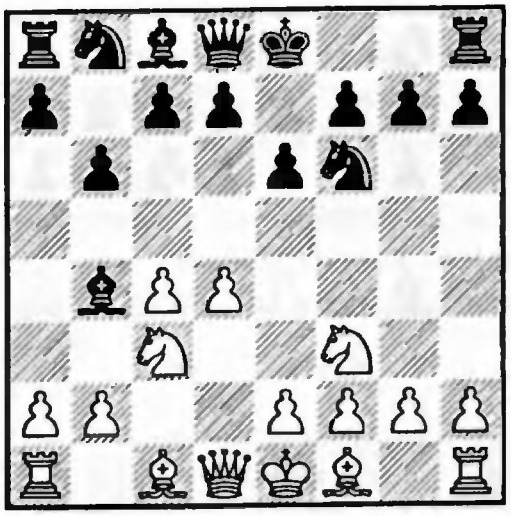
☐ **Bacrot,E (2705)**

■ **Renet,O (2497)**

TCh-FRA Top 12 2011 Mulhouse FRA (4.1), 29.05.2011

Nimzo Indian 4.♘f3 is pet line of GM Etienne Bacrot. In this game he played idea with 8.♕c2, preparing manoeuvre with 9.♘d2! and saving move e3 for later. With this move order, white avoids popular line which comes after 9.e3 ♗xc3+ 10. bxc3 d6 11.♗d3 f5 etc. which is well examined in theory. Here black elected Leko's move order with early 11... ♕e7 and he was faced with strong idea 12.c5! which Lenic played few weeks before. Position was complex, but white had advantage during whole game. Idea with 12.c5! becomes main problem for black in move order with 11... ♕e7. In rest of the game both players made some mistakes but that doesn't change evaluation of this line.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♘f3 b6



5.♗g5

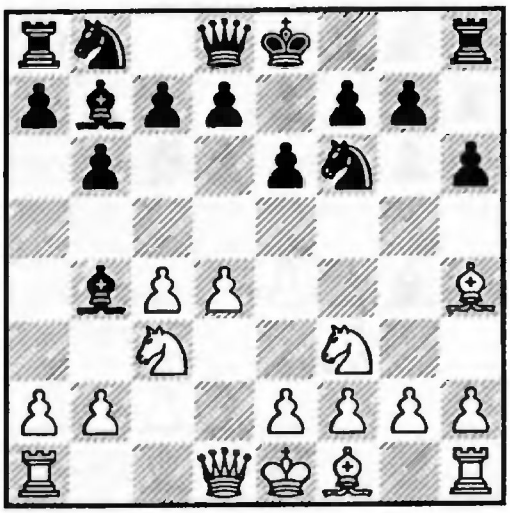
Interesting way to transpose into same position like in the game is 5.♕c2!? /\ e4 5... ♗b7 6.♗g5 h6 (Here I tried 6... 0-0 7.e3 c5 with black, but after 8.dxc5! bxc5 (8... ♗xc5± was not my taste, since white got position from 4.♕c2 c5 Nimzo Indian without losing tempo on a3.) 9.♗e2 d6 10.♖d1 ♕e7

11.a3 ♗xc3+ 12.♕xc3, I had to defend with 12... a5 13.0-0 ♖d8 14.♕c2 ♘bd7± and white was slightly better. Vasquez Igarza – Predojevic, Aeroflot Open 2009.) 7.♗h4 g5 8.♗g3 and black does not have anything better than 8... ♘e4 with transposition in the game.

5... h6 6.♗h4 g5

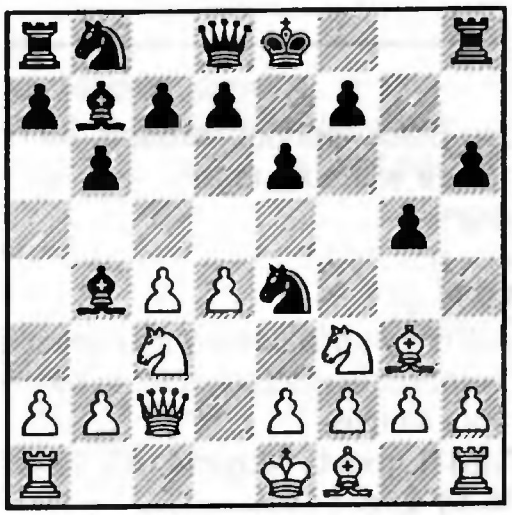
With this move order black avoids interesting plan for white which is including playing ♘d2 without moving queen from d1. If black would play 6... ♗b7 he should know for 7.♘d2!?, move which is very popular in last few years.

Also after 6... ♗b7 white can play



7.♕c2!? with idea on 7... g5 (If black tries to disturb whites queen with 7... ♗e4 after 8.♕b3 a5 9.♘d2! ♗h7 (Alternative is 9... ♗b7 10.a3 ♗xc3 (10... ♗e7 11.♕c2± with next e4) 11.♕xc3 0-0 12.f3± This position can come from ♕c2 Nimzo Indian, but there are usually black pawns on d6 and a7. In that kind of setups black needs to react with c5 and a5 is note so good. All this facts are telling that white got better version of ♕c2 Nimzo Indian and he has advantage.) 10.a3 a4 11.♕d1 ♗xc3 12.bxc3 c5 13.e3± white is better. Black's bishop on h7 is in bad position (his place is on diagonal h1-a8).) 8.♗g3 ♘e4 9.♘d2! and again we come to the game.

7.♗g3 ♘e4 8.♕c2 ♗b7



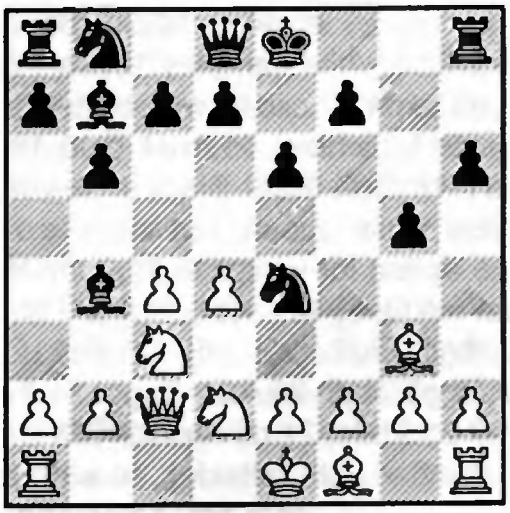
9.♘d2!

White understands this setup and he is deciding for the most useful move. Also he saves the idea to play e4, which he would not be able to do if he would follow main line.

Main line is 9.e3 and to see diferences between this move and move in the game I will put here one of interesting options for black here: 9... ♗xc3+ 10.bxc3 d6 11.♗d3 (11.♘d2 ♘xg3 12.hxg3 ♘d7 looks good for black.) 11... f5⇄ and according to theory black has good game here.

9... ♗xc3

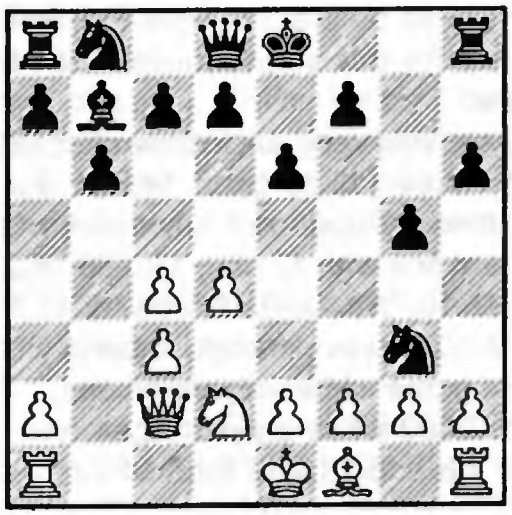
Other moves are weaker,



for example on: 9... f5?! white gets better position after 10.♘dxe4 ♗xe4 11.♕b3! ♗xc3+ 12.♕xc3 f4 13.f3□ fxg3 (13... ♗g6 14.♗f2 ♕f6 15.e4 fxe3 16.♗xe3 ♘c6 17.♗e2± is just better for white. Markos–Mihok, Austria (tch) 2010) 14.fxe4 e5 15.e3 gxh2 16.♗e2 0-0 17.♖xh2 ♕f6 18.dxe5! ♕g7 and now white can play 19.c5!N (19.e6 was played in game Markos–Bromberger, Graz 2010, but black could defend better.) 19... ♘c6 20.0-0-0 ♘xe5 (20... ♖ad8 21.♗c4+ ♔h7 22.♖dh1±) 21.♖xh6 ♕xh6 22.♕xe5 ♖ad8 23.♗c4+ ♔h7 24.♕xc7± with attack and better position.

10.bxc3 ♘xg3

Logical decision. On 10... f5 11.e3 d6 white can play 12.♘xe4 ♗xe4 13.♕d2 ♗b7 14.h4± with better position. In my database I found two games and one of players with white pieces was Garry Kasparov: 14... g4 (On 14... ♕f6 comes typical 15.c5! with advantage for white.) 15.a4 ♘c6 16.c5 ♘a5 17.♕a2 ♕e7 18.♗b5+ ♔f7 19.0-0 dxc5 20.♗d3 ♖ad8 21.♖fe1 c4 22.♗c2↑ +/= with good compensation for sacrificed pawn. Kasparov–Truong, New York/ London (simultan game) 1984.



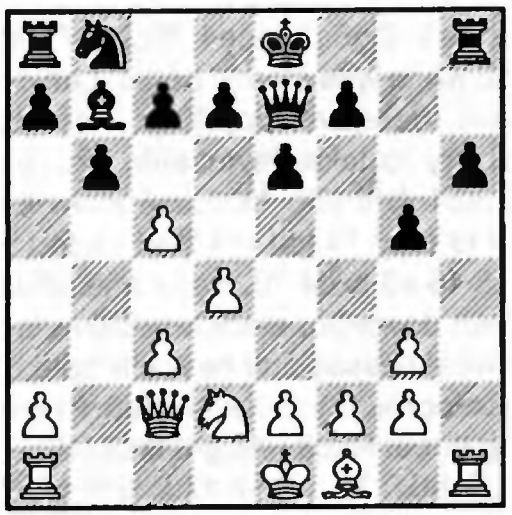
11.hxg3

Less sence has taking with f–pawn 11.fxg3. After 11... 0-0 12.e4 c5 13.♗d3 d6 14.0-0 ♘c6⇄ black has good game.

11... ♕e7

This is move order which became popular after game Mamedyarov–Leko, Elista 2009. Most played move here is 11... d6

12.c5!



New plan and key move in this position. It looks that black didn't check new games in this line, otherwise he would see that this was played just couple weeks before. I believe that Bacrot knew for this strong move much before.

There was very quick draw after 12.a4 a5 13.e4 (13.c5 bxc5 14.♖b1 ♗a6!∞ and white does not have motiv Qa4 like in line with 12.c5!.) 13... d6 14.♗d3 ♘d7 15.♘f1 0-0-0 16.♘e3 h5 17.♕e2 1/2-1/2 Dreev-Hracek, Sibenik 2009; In game Mamedyarov-Leko, Elista 2009 white played 12.e4 and after 12... d6 13.♗d3 ♘d7 14.♘f1 0-0-0 15.♘e3 h5! 16.0-0-0 ♖dg8 17.♔b1 ♔b8 18.♖h2 g4⇄ /\ h4 black had nice position.

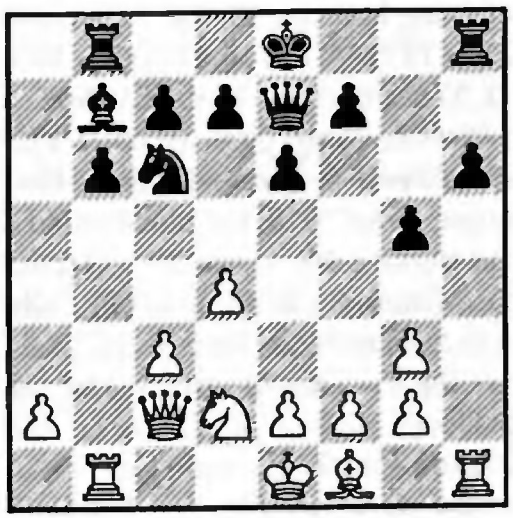
12... ♘c6N

In first game with 12.c5! black played 12... d6, and after 13.cxd6 cxd6 14.e4 ♘d7 15.a4 ♔f8 16.a5 ♔g7 17.♗b5 he was worse. Game continued: 17... ♘f6 18.0-0 (Better was imediatelly 18.a6! ♗c8 19.e5±) 18... h5?! (18... a6!±) 19.a6 ♗c8 20.e5 (20.♘c4!?± also deserves attention.) 20... dxe5 21.dxe5 ♘d7 22.c4 h4 23.g4 ♘f8 24.♕e4 ♖b8 25.♕e3 ♘g6 26.♘e4 ♕c7 27.♘d6± and white was clearly better. Lenic-Ib. Saric, Sarajevo (op) 2011; Also black can try to take pawn with: 12... bxc5 13.♖b1 ♗c6 (On 13... ♗a6 looks logical to play 14.g4! (14.♕a4 cxd4 (14... ♗c8 15.e3 cxd4 16.cxd4± and white is pawn down but black's position is full of weaknesses and he is still behind in development.) 15.cxd4 ♕d6 Preventing threat Rxb8+ 16.g4! ♕c6 (16... 0-0 17.♖xh6±; 16... ♔e7 17.♖h3↑) 17.♕a5 ♕d6 18.♖h3 ♕xd4∞) 14... cxd4 (On 14... ♘c6 white can play 15.♕a4 ♗c8 16.e3 cxd4 17.cxd4± with better prospects for white.) 15.cxd4 ♕d6 16.e3 ♗xf1 17.♔xf1 ♕c6! Black's idea is to chase white queen, but there is very nice option for white: 18.♕b2 (18.♕d3 ♔e7∞ /\ Qa6) 18... ♕b6 19.♕a1! ♕a6+ 20.♔g1 ♕d3 (20... d5 21.♘f3 ♘d7 22.♘xg5 ♖g8 23.♘f3 ♖xg4 24.♖xh6 ♔e7 25.♖b2±) 21.d5 ♖g8 22.♘f3 ♕xd5 23.♖xh6→ with attack.) 14.e3≅ and despite pawn more black has serious problems. His king is unsafe while all his pieces are on bad places.

13.♖b1 ♖b8

Black is forcing white to take on b6.

14.cxb6 axb6



15.e4!

Here is one more diference between 9.♘d2 and 9.e3. As we say white is keeping on mind to play e4 and now he is doing it.

15... ♖a8

After 15... ♔f8 white can continue like in the game: 16.♗b5 ♔g7 17.g4 pre-

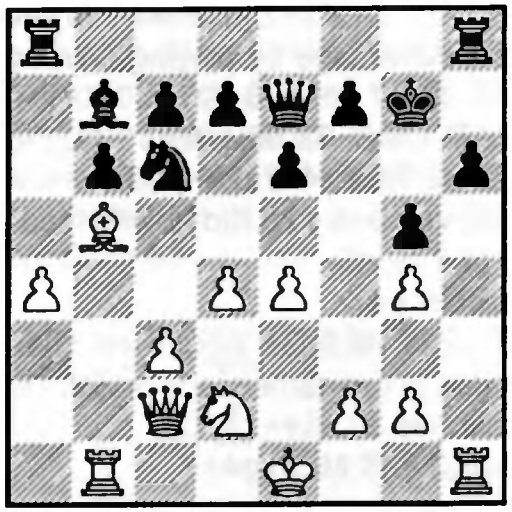
paring transfer of his knight to g3. If black plays 17... f5 18.e5 fxg4 19.♘e4 ♖bf8± diference than in the game is not big. White pawn is on a2 (than on a4 like in the game) but that does not change evaluation.

16.a4 ♔f8 17.♗b5±

White has nice advantage in this setup. Black king is unsafe, and there are also ideas connected with g4 and ♘f1-g3. White king is safe in centre and there is no need for short castle because rook on h-file is also active.

Also deserves attention 17.g4 ♔g7 18.♗e2± when black does not have active counterplay with f5 like in the game.

17... ♔g7 18.g4



18... f5!

Only break in position for black. If he does not do anything simple plan ♘f1-g3

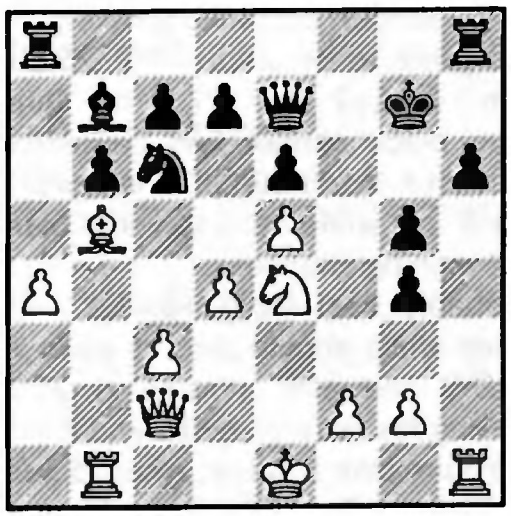
After 18... d6 white transfers his knight to g3 or even e3: 19.♘f1 and on 19... f5 (otherwise I dont see any active plan for black) white has 20.♘g3! ♖hf8 (20... fxg4 21.♘h5+ ♔f7 22.♕e2±) 21.exf5 exf5+ 22.♔f1 fxg4 Only move 23.♘h5+! ♔h8 24.♕g6 ♕h7 25.♘f4! ♕xg6 26.♘xg6+ ♔g7 27.♘xf8 ♖xf8 28.♖e1+- and white wins.

19.e5!?

Brave decision. White keeps closed position in centre and he prepares attack on black king. Pawn on e5 can be very strong especially when white knight comes to f6. Anyway it looks that black could make better defensive move than in game...

White could keep advantage after better 19.gxf5! exf5 20.0-0 fxe4 (20... f4 21.e5±) 21.♖fe1 (21.♖be1 d5 22.f3 e3!∞) 21... d5 22.f3 ♕f6 (22... e3 23.♘f1±) 23.fxe4 ♖hf8 24.♖f1 ♕e6 25.e5±

19... fxg4 20.♘e4



20... ♖af8?!

Cruical mistake.Here black missed very nice defensive idea 20... ♕f7!∞ After logical 21.0-0 (21.♘f6 ♘e7!↑ black does not care about d7 pawn and preparing Nd5. 22.0-0 ♘d5

23.♗xd7 h5∓ and already black is better.) 21... ♘e7! it is not easy to continue with white pieces. For example: 22.f3?! ♗xe4 23.fxe4 ♕h5∓ and black kept pawn up, but better bishop and strong center gives enough counterplay to white.; 20... d6 21.exd6 cxd6 22.♘g3↑

21.♘g3

Now white is again on right way and he has advantage.

21... ♔f7 22.♗e2 ♔e8

22... ♘a5 23.♔f1 ♔e8 24.♘h5 ♔d8 25.♔g1!?± and white has time to take g-pawn.

23.♗xg4 ♔d8 24.♘h5↑

Black finally solves the problem with his king but pawn structure and position still remains better for white.

24... ♗a6?!

Bad decision. After excanges on e2 black position becomes weaker.

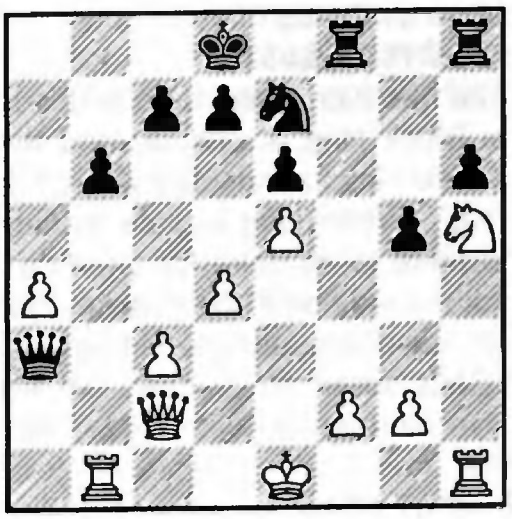
Endgame after 24... ♕h7 25.♕xh7 ♖xh7 26.♗e2 ♔e7 27.f3 d6 Otherwise black cannot find counterplay. 28.exd6+ ♔xd6 29.♔d2± is worse for black, but white need to find a plan to get winning chances.;

Probably best reply was 24... ♘a5 when white should protect pawn with 25.0-0 and after (Worse is 25.♔f1 leaving his rook on h-file and to have pressure over this line. After 25... ♘c4 26.♖e1 ♕h7 27.♕xh7 ♖xh7 28.♘f6 ♖hh8 29.♗e2 ♗d5!⇄ black has good counterplay.) 25... ♕h7 he should keep queens on board with 26.♕c1!±. In final position white is better. He can use square f6 for his knight and one of ideas can be sacrifice d5 with attack on black king.

25.♗e2! ♗xe2 26.♕xe2 ♕a3?!

Too optimsitic but black is already in big problems.

27.♕c2± ♘e7



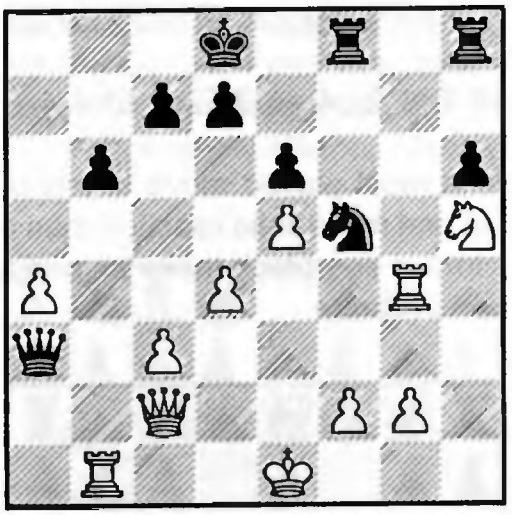
After 27... ♔c8 28.0-0 ♕e7 white keeps clear advantage by playing (Wrong is 28... ♔b7? 29.♘f6 ♖f7 30.♖a1 ♕f8 31.a5! ♘xa5 32.♖fb1 ♕a8 (32... ♘c6 33.♕e2 ♘b8 34.♕a2+-) 33.c4+- with decisive atack.) 29.♖fd1± with idea c4, d5 or ♘f6, d5.

28.♖h3! g4

28... ♘f5 29.♖d3± would not change course of the game since on 29... ♕e7 white has 30.a5+-

29.♖g3 ♘f5 30.♖xg4+-

Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs

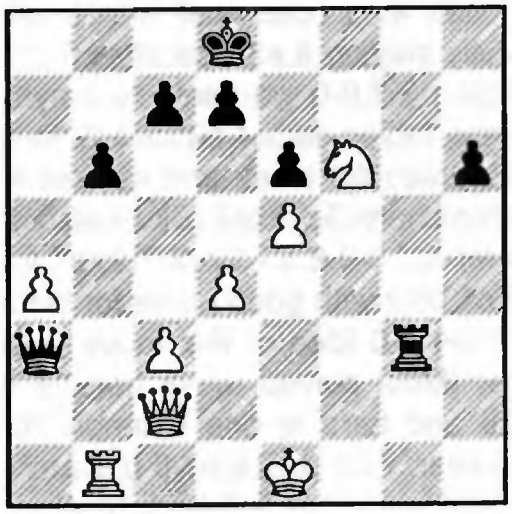


Black lost pawn and his position is very close to be lost. White has also positional advantage and objectively there is no hope for black.

30... ♖hg8 31.♖xg8 ♖xg8 32.g3 ♖g5 33.♘f6 ♘xg3

Practical decision to sacrifice piece for some active play. If black waits, white will improve position of his pieces and with pawn down it will be without any hope for black.

34.fxg3 ♖xg3



35.♔f2??

White gives a chance to his opponent. Probably here was zeitnot on both sides and game became very unclear. White should be easily winning after 35.♘e4 ♖g1+ 36.♔f2 ♖xb1 37.♕xb1 ♕xa4 38.♔f3+−

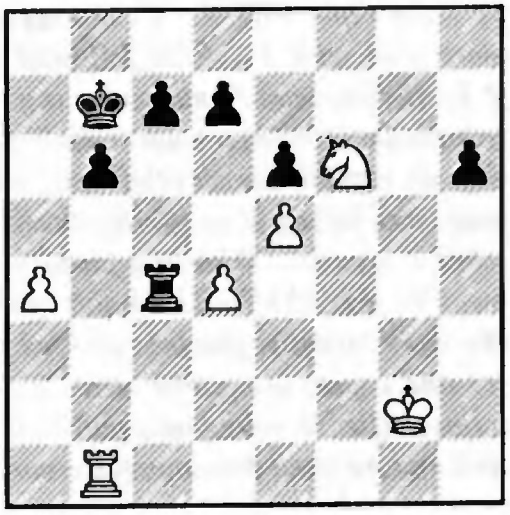
35... ♖xc3 36.♕g6 ♕a2+?

After correct 36... ♔c8! black king would escape to b7 and then attack on white king would more dangerous. Computer shows here 00.00 giving next line: 37.♔g2! (37.♕e4 ♕xa4 38.♖b2 ♕a1 39.♖d2 ♖h3→ and black already has three pawns for knight and also very strong attack.; 37.♖e1 ♕xa4 38.♕e4 ♖h3∞) 37... ♖d3 38.♕e8+ ♔b7 39.♖xb6+ cxb6 40.♕xd7+= and white is forcing draw with perpetual check!

37.♔g1 ♔c8 38.♕g8+ ♔b7 39.♕g2+!

Now everything is clear. White is changing queens and he has piece up in following endgame which is enough for win.

39... ♕xg2+ 40.♔xg2 ♖c4



Better was 40... ♔c6 but it is very hard to believe in black position after simple 41.♔f2± with idea ♔e2-d2 with following check on c1.

41.d5+-

White makes passed pawn on e-line and rest of the game is matter of technique.

41... exd5

41... ♔c8 42.♖h1+-

42.♘xd7 ♔c8 43.♘f6 ♔d8 44.♖e1 ♔e7 45.e6 c6

45... ♖xa4 46.♘xd5++-

46.♘g8+ ♔e8 47.♔f3 ♖c3+ 48.♔f4 d4 49.e7 ♖e3 50.♖xe3 dxe3 51.♔xe3 and black resigned.

1-0 *[Predojevic,Borki]*

(43) [E21]

☐ **Wang Yue (2714)**

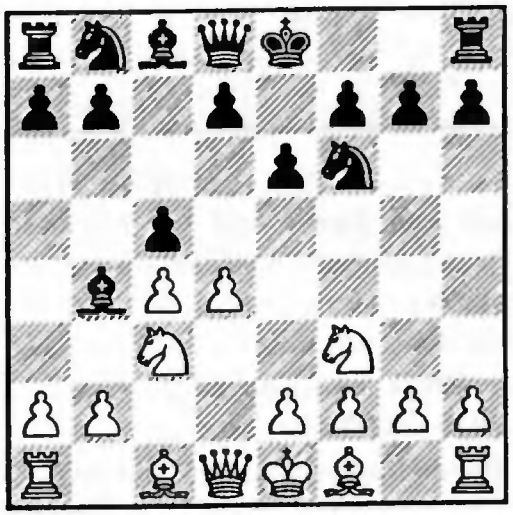
■ **Yu Yangyi (2646)**

2nd GM Danzhou CHN (8), 23.05.2011

In Nimzo Indian with 4.♘f3 black played more solid reply with 4... c5 aiming for modern line with 5... ♘c6 followed by Ne4. In this line white's main idea is giving darkquared bishop with 7.♗d2 and trying to exploit his development advantage and strong ♗ on g2. Black chose Ivachuk's idea 9... ♕b6 and faced with new move 11.♘b3!N. Until this game white were usually playing 11.♘c2 or 11.e3 and I gave also some ideas in this two lines. After novelty black played best moves and he used few unprecise moves by white to take over advantage and win game. White could play better in this game and one of possible imporevements is 11.0-0!? which can be future debate in this line.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♘f3 c5

This is most played move in this position and more solid reaction than 4... b6. In this line black takes immediate action in centre.

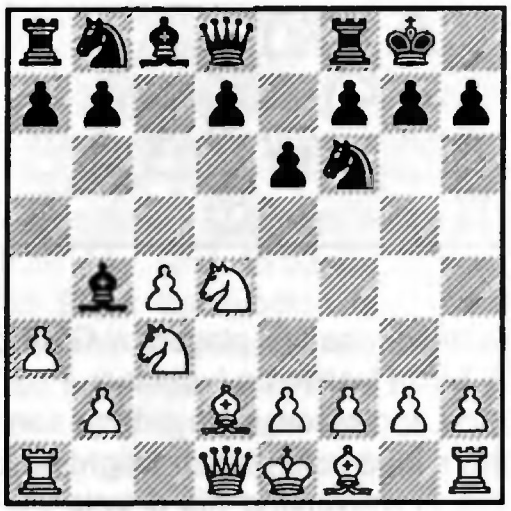


5.g3

Best and most common reply.

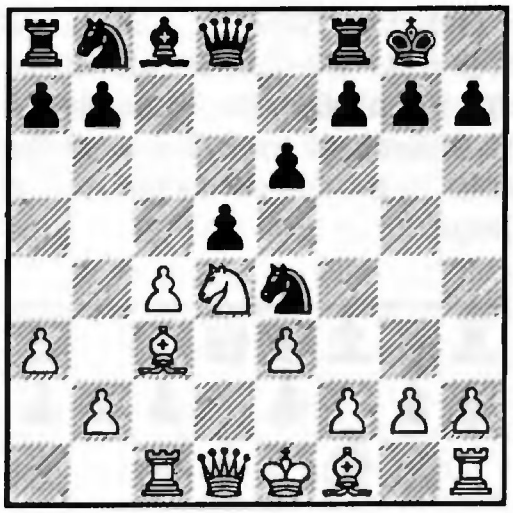
White can choose transposition to setups which apears in Nimzo Indian with 4.e3 (Classical Nimzo Indian) by playing 5.e3 and after 5... 0-0 6.♗d3 d5 7.0-0 we came to tabya of Nimzo Indian with 4.e3; 5.♗d2 is not dangerous for black and he has few options here: 5... cxd4 (Black also can prefer 5... 0-0 6.a3 ♗xc3 7.♗xc3 ♘e4 8.♖c1 b6⇄ with good game for black.) 6.♘xd4 0-0 Idea of this move is that after (Most played move here is 6... ♘c6 and here is one example from last year: 7.a3 ♗e7 8.e3 0-0 9.♗e2 d5 Teoretical duel is finished. Black easily equalized. 10.cxd5 ♘xd4 11.exd4

♘xd5 12.♗f3 ♘b6 13.♗e3 ♘c4 14.0-0 ♘xe3 15.fxe3 ♗d7= /=/+ with nice position and better prospects for black. Lenic–Ponomariov, Khanty Mansiysk 2010) 7.a3



7... ♗xc3! 8.♗xc3 d5 black wants to play e5 and d4 or Ne4. If black knight would be on c6 whole idea with taking on c3 would be without sense. 9.e3 (9.cxd5 ♘xd5 10.♕c2 ♘xc3 11.♕xc3 ♗d7 12.e3 ♘c6 13.♗e2 ♘xd4 14.♕xd4 ♗c6 15.♕xd8 ♖fxd8=) 9... ♘e4 10.♖c1 (Better was 10.♗b4!? ♖e8 11.♗d3 a5 12.♗xe4 dxe4 13.♗c3 ♕e7∞ with unclear play. Here black wants to play e5 develop his pieces and try to organize an attack on white king because white pieces are far from kingside.)

Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs

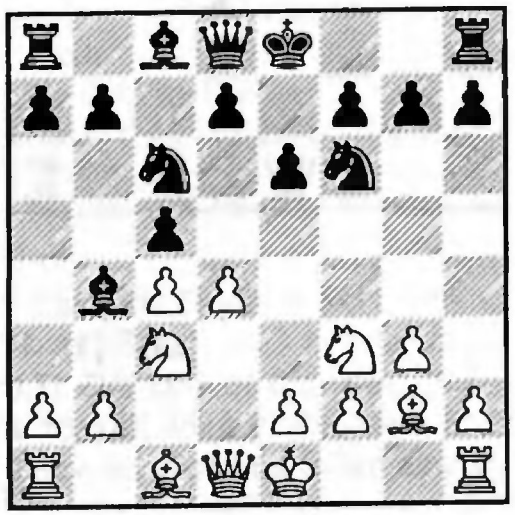


10... e5! 11.♘f3 ♘xc3 12.♖xc3 d4 13.exd4 e4 14.♘d2 (14.♘g1) 14... ♕xd4 15.♗e2 ♘c6 16.♘b3 ♕f6 17.0-0 ♖e8 18.♗g4 ♘e5 19.♗xc8 ♖axc8∓ and black was better ad finally he won the game. Jakovljevic–Zelcic, Zadar 2010; It is too early for 5.♗g5 h6 6.♗xf6 (After 6.♗h4 ♕a5 7.♕c2 (7.♗xf6 ♗xc3+ 8.bxc3 ♕xc3+ 9.♘d2 gxf6∓) 7... ♘e4 8.♖c1 f5∓ black is already better.) 6... ♕xf6 7.e3 ♘c6 8.♗e2 0-0 9.0-0 ♗xc3 10.bxc3 d6= with comfortable position for black.

5... ♘c6 6.♗g2

Alternative is 6.d5 ♘a5 7.♘d2 (After 7.♕d3 b6 8.♗g2 ♗a6 9.♘d2 (9.dxe6 dxe6 10.♘e5 ♕xd3 11.exd3 ♗b7 12.♗xb7 ♗xc3+ 13.bxc3 ♘xb7 black has good position.) 9... ♗xc3 10.♕xc3 exd5 11.♕e3+ ♕e7 12.♕xe7+ ♔xe7 13.cxd5 ♖ae8 14.♘b1 d6 15.♘c3 b5⇄ black has enough counterplay for white's bishop pair.) 7... b6 8.♗g2N and now black can try with (8.♕c2 0-0 9.♗g2 ♗xc3 10.♕xc3 exd5 11.cxd5 ♖e8 12.b3 ♗a6 with good game for black. Van Wely–Morozevich, Don–

ner Memorial 1996) 8... ♗a6 (8... ♖b8 9.♕c2 0-0 10.0-0 ♗a6∞ with unclear game.) 9.dxe6 fxe6 10.♗xa8 ♕xa8 11.0-0 ♗xc3 12.bxc3 ♘xc4 13.♘xc4 ♗xc4⩲ with compensation for exchange.



6... ♘e4

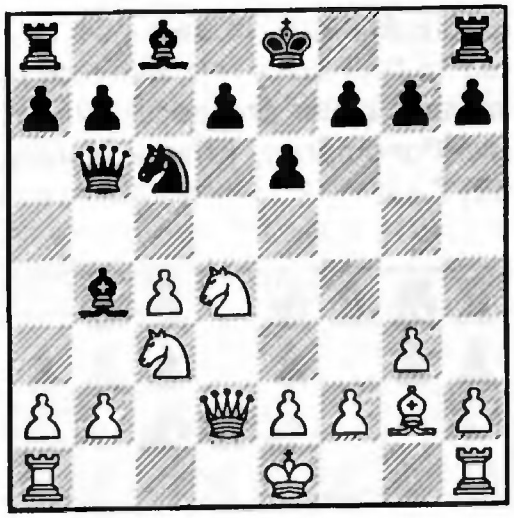
Popular reply in this position.

7.♗d2

White gives his bishop pair and he is hoping that black loss of time with Ne4 and ♘xd2, plus reaction with c5 which gave more control over light squares will be enough for advantage.

On 7.♕d3 black reacts with 7... cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♘xc3 9.bxc3 ♘e5! 10.♕c2 ♗e7 with good game. In following game white continued with 11.♕b3 and after 11... 0-0 12.f4 ♘c6 13.♗e3 ♕c7 14.♘b5 ♕b8 15.c5 b6! 16.cxb6 axb6 17.c4 ♘a5 18.♕d3 ♗b7 19.0-0 ♗xg2 20.♔xg2 ♕b7+ 21.♔f2 ♖fd8∓ black was on top. Stamenkovic–Mareco, Campinas (Brasil) 2011

7... ♘xd2 8.♕xd2 cxd4 9.♘xd4 ♕b6!



This move was first played by GM Kostin, but in last years Ivanchuk, Ponomariov and Macieja played the same. Black's idea is to disturb knight on d4 which is preventing his development connected with d6 and ♗d7.

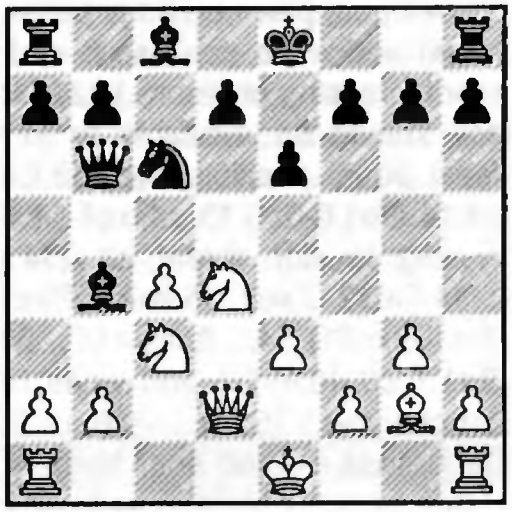
Before, main line was 9... ♘e5 but great move 10.♘f3! gives advantage to white.

10.♘b3!N

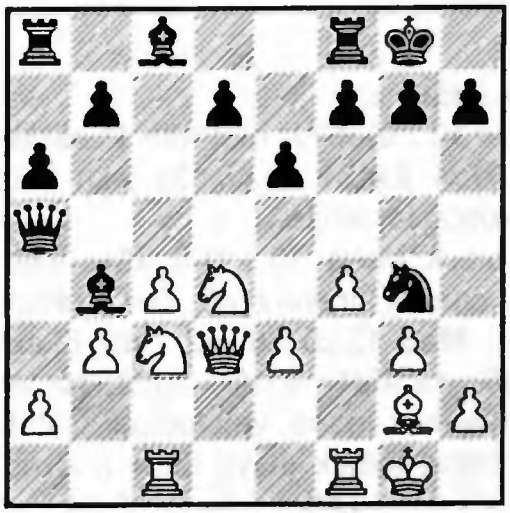
New and very ambitious try.

After 10.♘c2 ♗e7 11.0-0 0-0 black should not have any problems because white cannot prevent next d6 and ♗d7. After this black has good chances to be better thanks to his bishop pair and very solid Hedgehog setup. Here are few recent examples: 12.♖ab1 d6 13.♖fd1 (13.b4 ♖d8 14.♔h1 ♗d7 15.♘e3 ♗f8 16.b5?! This looks too active since in future black has more squares and white pawns on queenside are weak. 16... ♘a5 17.f4 ♕c7 18.♖fc1 ♖ac8 19.♘e4 b6 20.♖c2 h6 21.♖f1 f5! Taking more space for his pieces. 22.♘f2 g6 23.♘d3 ♗g7 24.♖fc1 ♗e8∓ and black was bet-

ter in game Nakamura–Ponomariov, Wijk aan Zee 2011) 13... ♖d8 Overprotecting pawn on d6 and preparing ♗d7. 14.e3!? (Other idea was to put knight on e3 with 14.♘e3 but black has no problems after 14... ♗d7 (14... a6 15.b4 ♕a7 16.a4 ♗d7 17.a5 ♘e5 18.b5 axb5 19.♘xb5 ♕xa5 20.♕xa5 ♖xa5 21.♘xd6 ♗a4! 22.♘xb7 ♗xd1 23.♘xd8 1/2-1/2 Sasikiran–Macieja, Warsaw 2009) 15.b4 ♗f8 16.♘e4 ♗e8⇄ L'Ami – Z. Almasi, Wijk aan Zee 2006) 14... ♗d7 15.b3 ♖ac8 16.♖bc1 ♗e8 Black complected his development and he is not worse. Game finished with draw after 17.h3 a6 18.♘d4 ♗f8 19.♔h2 ♕a5 20.♘ce2 ♕a3 21.♘c2 ♕a5 22.♘cd4 ♕a3 23.♘c2 ♕a5 24.♘cd4 ♕a3= 1/2-1/2 Wang Hao–Yu Yangyi, Danzhou 2011;
Critical move here is 10.e3 because white keeps his knight in centre. With included moves ♕b6 and e3 black covered d4 square so he can play

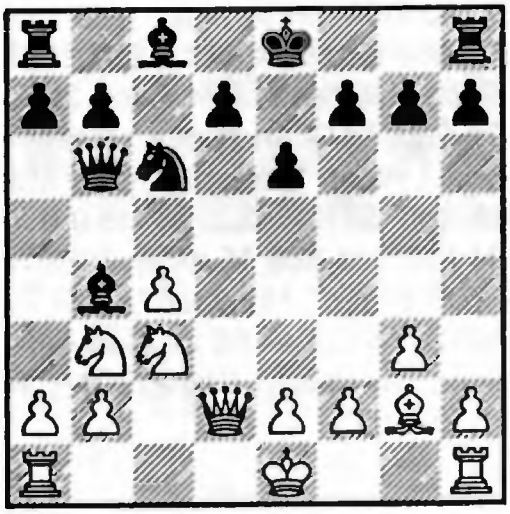


10... ♘e5 forcing (10... 0-0 11.0-0 ♗e7 12.f4± is just better for white.) 11.b3 ♕a5 12.♖c1 (12.♘de2 ♗a3! With this move black defends a3 and secures advantage on dark squares. 13.0-0 a6 14.♖ad1 ♖b8 15.♕d4 0-0 16.♘b5 axb5 17.♕xe5 d6 18.♕h5?! Too optimistic. (Better was 18.♕xb5 ♕xb5 19.cxb5 ♗d7 20.♘d4 ♖fc8⩱ with nice compensation for black.) 18... ♗d7 19.♖d4 ♗c5 20.♖h4 h6 21.♘f4 bxc4 22.♗e4 f5 23.♘g6 ♖f7∓ and soon black went on win. Linster–Macieja, Khanty Mansiysk (ol) 2010) 12... a6 13.0-0 0-0 14.f4 (14.♕c2 ♖b8 15.a4 ♗e7 16.♖fd1 d6 17.♕d2 ♕c7 18.h3 ♗d7 19.f4 ♘g6 20.♔h2 ♖fe8 21.e4 h6 22.♕e2 ♗f6= Li Shilong–Yu Yangyi China 2011) 14... ♘g4 15.♕d3



and here I propose for black to deviate from game Cheparinov–Ivanchuk, Jermuk 2009 and play: 15... ♖b8!?N with idea to sacrifice pawn with b5 in right moment. It is very important that pawn stayes on d7 to cover c6 square. White can continue with 16.h3 (16.♗f3 ♘f6 17.g4 ♗a3 18.♖cd1 b5 19.cxb5 axb5 20.g5 ♘e8 21.♘c2 ♗e7∞;

16.♖fd1 d5 17.cxd5 e5 18.fxe5 ♘xe5 19.♕c2 ♗g4∓) 16... ♘f6 17.g4 ♗a3 18.♖cd1 b5! 19.cxb5 axb5 20.g5 ♘h5 21.♘ce2 g6 22.♗f3 ♘g7 23.♘g3 ♗e7 24.♘e4 ♗b7∞ with unclear position.

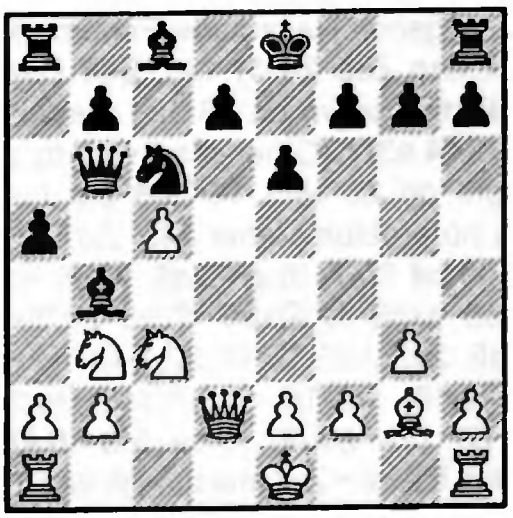


10... a5!

Now 10... ♘e5? is met with 11.c5! ♕c7 12.♕d4 ♗xc3+ 13.♕xc3± with better position for white.;

If black plays 10... 0-0 after 11.0-0 he cannot prevent c5. For example: 11... ♕a6 12.c5 b6 (12... d5 13.cxd6 ♖d8 14.♖fd1 ♗xd6 15.♕e3± and white has good version of Catalan opening (black plays dxc4 and c5).) 13.a3 ♗xc3 (After 13... ♗xc5 14.♘xc5 bxc5 15.b4! black has to sacrifice exchange: 15... ♖b8 16.b5 ♖xb5 17.♘xb5 ♕xb5 18.♖ab1 ♕a6 19.♖fc1± and despite material equality (rook vs. knight and two pawns) white is much better.) 14.♕xc3 ♕xe2 15.cxb6 axb6 16.♖fd1↑ with compensation and pressure for sacrificed pawn.

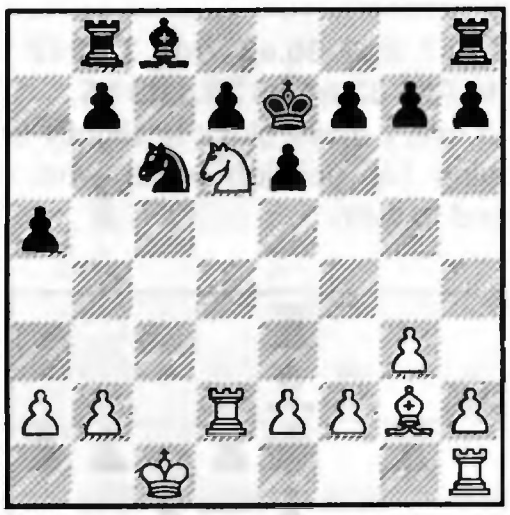
11.c5?!



Very active and concrete move. White is taking risk with sacrifising pawn with almost forced endgame with pawn down.

In my opinion better option was 11.0-0! a4 (11... 0-0 12.c5 ♕a6 13.a3 ♗xc3 14.♕xc3 ♕xe2 15.♘d4⩲ with good compensation for white.) 12.♘c1 ♕d4! (After 12... a3 13.♘d3 ♕d4 14.e3! ♗xc3 15.♕xc3 ♕xc3 16.bxc3± I prefer white position. Black pieces are still not developed, pawn on a3 is possible target and white can use b and d line for increasing pressure.) 13.♕xd4 (Black should be available to keep at least equal position after 13.♘d3 ♕xc4 14.♖fc1 0-0⇄) 13... ♘xd4 14.a3! Only way to stop threat a3. (14.e3 a3!; 14.♘d3? ♗xc3 15.bxc3 ♘xe2+ 16.♔h1 ♘xc3∓) 14... ♗xc3 (14... ♗e7 15.♖d1 ♘c6 16.♘d3± and white has better chances.) 15.bxc3 ♘c6 16.♖b1 ♔e7 17.♘d3± /~~ and white has some pressure here but black is solid which gives him chances to equlaize and even play for win.

11... ♗xc5 12.♘xc5 ♕xc5 13.♘e4 ♕b4 14.♘d6+ ♔e7 15.0-0-0 ♕xd2+ 16.♖xd2 ♖b8



This endgame should not be worse for black. Anyway with precise play white should be available to take back pawn and some moment.

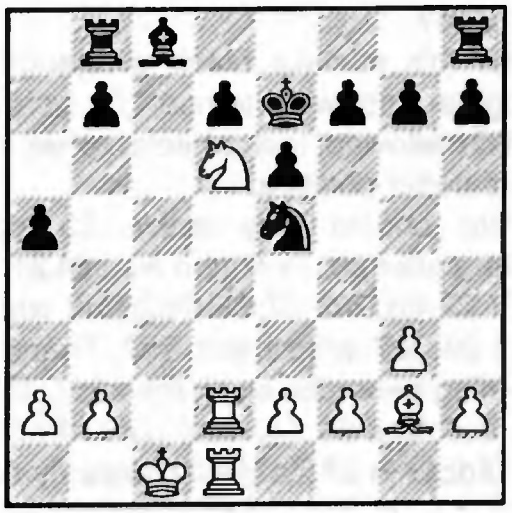
17.♖hd1

White is immediatelly pressuring on d7. Idea is simple ♘xc8+ and ♖xd7+. Black's next move is forced:

If white tries to put another rook on c–line with 17.♔b1 b6 18.♖c1 there is 18... ♘e5 19.h3 ♗a6∓ with next g5 and still there is no clear way how white will increase his pressure while material advantage is on blacks side.

17... ♘e5

www.chess-evolution.com



18.h3!

18.f4? would allowe 18... ♘g4∓ with unstopable ♘e3 and better position for black.

18... b5!

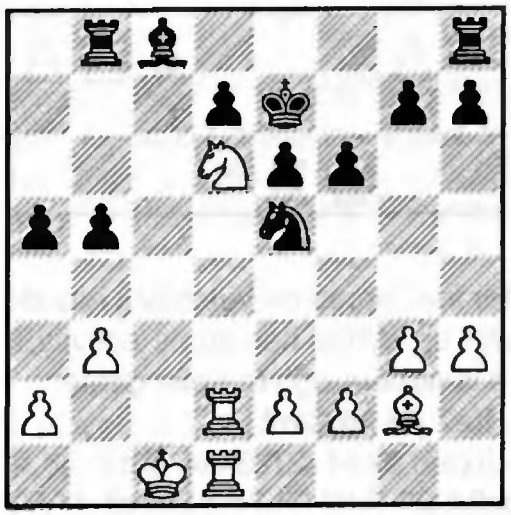
It would be wrong to play 18... f6? 19.f4 ♘f7 20.♘xb7!± and white is much better.

19.b3

Covering c4 square.

19.f4 ♘c4∓

19... f6

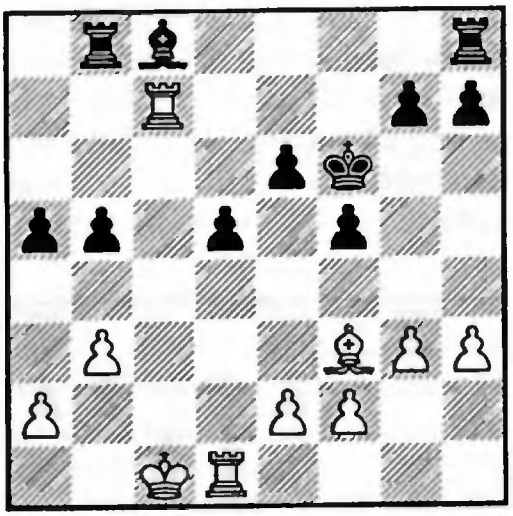


20.♗e4?

After this mistake black is changing knights and with tempo (f5 or d5) which allowed last white's move he gets better position.

White should play active 20.♖c2!, where after 20... ♘f7 (On 20... b4 21.f4 ♘f7 22.♘xf7 ♔xf7 23.♔b2 ♖d8 white has 24.♖c7 with threat ♖a7. There is nothing better for black than 24... ♖b6 25.♖a7 ♖a6 26.♖c7 ♖b6 (26... ♔e7?? 27.♖dc1+−) 27.♖a7= with draw by repetion.) 21.♘xf7 ♔xf7 22.♖c7 ♔e7 23.♖a7 a4 24.♔d2! (24.bxa4? bxa4 25.♖xa4 d5∓) 24... h5 25.♖c1⩲ white has enough compensation for pawn, but not more.

20... ♘f7! 21.♘xf7 ♔xf7 22.♖c2 f5 23.♗f3 d5 24.♖c7+ ♔f6∓ /−/+



After few forced moves black has clear pawn up. White has some activity, but this is not enough to save game.

25.♖a7 a4 26.♔b2

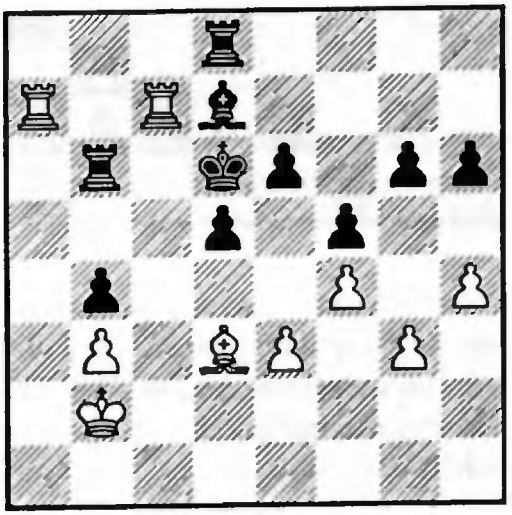
26.bxa4 bxa4 27.♖xa4 ♗d7 28.♖a7 ♖hc8+ 29.♔d2 ♖b2+ 30.♔e1 ♗b5∓ is much better for black.

26... axb3 27.axb3 ♖d8 28.♖c1 ♗d7∓

Finally black finished his development. He has pawn more and rest of the game should be tehnical job for him.

29.♖cc7 ♔e7 30.e3 ♔d6 31.♗e2 b4 32.f4 ♖b6 33.h4 g6 34.♗d3 h6

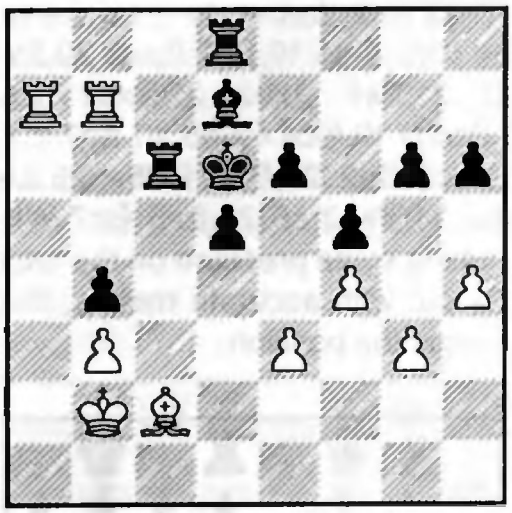
With every move black is slightly improving his position while white is forced to wait.



35.♗c2

Better was to change one pair of rooks with 35.♖cb7 ♖xb7 36.♖xb7 ♔c5 37.♔c2, but this is not solving all problems for white since black can even try with: 37... d4 38.exd4+ ♔xd4 39.♔d2 (After 39.♖xb4+ ♔e3∓ black king penetrate to white's kingside threateting to take all pawns.) 39... ♔c5∓/-+ and black keeps pawn up, but he need to play few more precise moves to win game. It is important to notice that white pawn on b3 is weakness and after black activates his bishop to d5 it will be very hard to defend it.

35... ♖c6 36.♖cb7



36.♖xc6+ ♔xc6-+ does not leave hope that white will survive.

36... ♖c3!

Last touch. Black rook invade into white position.

37.♖xb4 ♖xe3 38.♖b6+ ♔c5 39.♖bb7 ♗c6 40.♖c7 ♔b6-+

White should resigned here but he played few more moves:

41.b4 d4 42.♗b3 d3 43.♗a4 ♖e2+ 44.♔c3 ♖a2! 45.b5 ♖xa4

0-1 *[Predojevic,Borki]*

(44) [E60]

□ Gelfand,B (2733)

■ Grischuk,A (2747)

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (3.6), 25.05.2011

In this important game, Grischuk tried the interesting 11... ♗g4 in the defense Grunfeld. After the good novelty 13.b3, Grischuk chose a super sharp line with the plan ♖a5–h5! Unfortunately, 20... ♗xh4 is a decisive mistake, but Gelfand made a great game anyway.

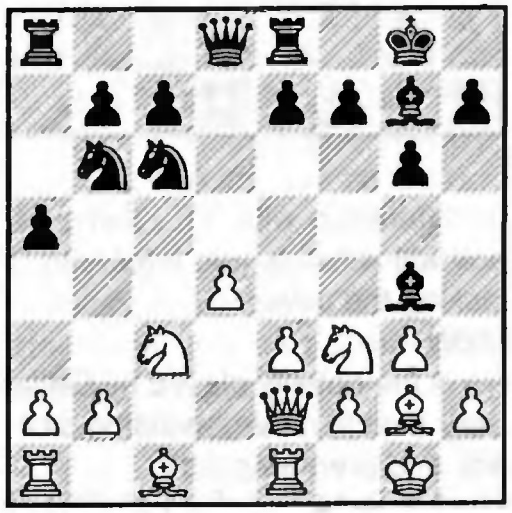
1.d4

A little surprise for the first move! Gelfand played two times 1.♘f3 in the Candidates matches finals.

1... ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘f3 ♗g7 4.g3 d5

Since the beginning of the Candidates Matches, Grischuk started to play the Gruenfeld. A logical choice with Peter Svidler acting as one of his seconds.

5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.♗g2 ♘b6 7.♘c3 ♘c6 8.e3 0-0 9.0-0 ♖e8 10.♖e1 a5 11.♕e2 ♗g4



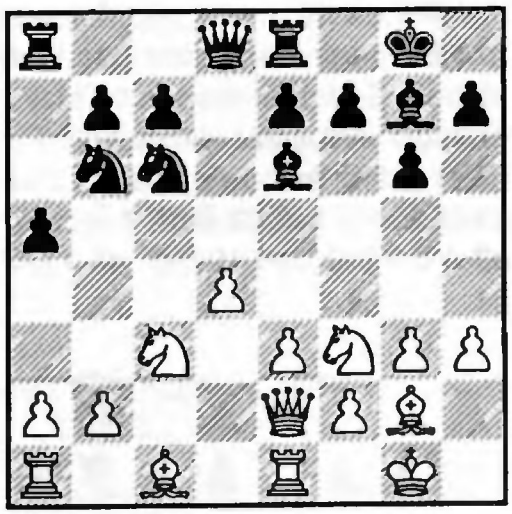
Here was the first critical moment for Black. Grischuk tried the interesting ♗g4. There are many other possibilities for the Russian player. The main moves are 11... e5 (analysed in Chess Evolution March Game 78) or 11... ♗e6.

Other option here is the dubious 11... ♗f5 played by Topalov recently.

11... ♗f5?! 12.♖d1 a4 13.d5 ♘a5 14.♘d4 ♘ac4 15.e4N (15.♘xf5 gxf5 16.♕c2 ♘d6∞ Gelfand – Topalov 2011)

15... ♗c8 (15... ♗d7 16.♘e6±) 16.♘cb5 ♗d7 17.♗f4±;
11... ♗e6 12.♖d1 ♗c4 13.♕c2 ♘b4 14.♕b1∞

12.h3 ♗e6



The difference with 11... ♗e6 is that Black will win a tempo later with ♕c8 attacking the pawn h3.

13.b3N

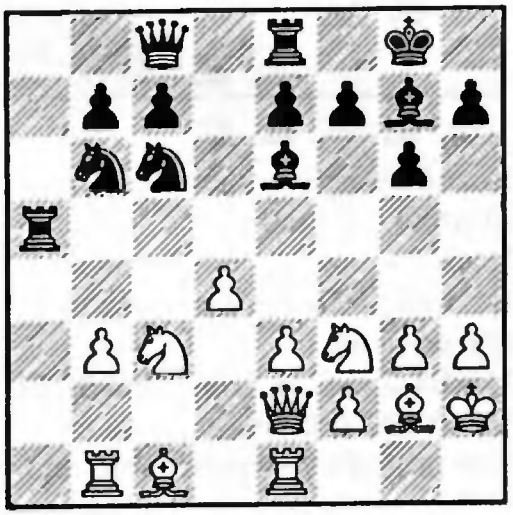
Here is the novelty played by Gelfand! A very logical move, avoiding ♗c4 for Black and preparing ♗b2.
13.♖d1 ♗c4 14.♕c2 ♘b4 15.♕b1 ♕c8 16.a3 ♘4d5 and Black is fine, Leitao (2624) – Wang Yue (2732) 2010

13... a4 14.♖b1 axb3 15.axb3 ♕c8

15... ♘a5 16.♕c2 ♘c6 17.b4 ♕c8 18.♔h2±

16.♔h2 ♖a5

What a decision by Grischuk! The game is so important, and he is clearly playing for a big fight! 16... ♘a5 or 16... ♖d8 were more solid in my opinion.
16... ♘a5 17.♘d2 (17.♕c2?! c5! 18.♖d1 ♖d8∞) 17... ♖d8 18.♗a3 ♘xb3 19.♗xe7 ♘xd2 20.♕xd2 ♖e8 21.♗c5 ♘c4 22.♕e2 c6 23.♖ed1 ♖a5∞;
16... ♖d8 17.♖d1 (17.♗d2 ♘a5 18.♕b5 ♗d7 19.♕e2 ♗e6=) 17... h6 18.♘d2 ♘b4 (18... ♘d5 19.♗b2 ♘xc3 20.♗xc3 ♖a2 21.♖a1 ♗xb3 22.♖xa2 ♗xa2 23.♕b5±) 19.♘c4 ♘6d5 20.♗d2 ♘xc3 21.♗xc3 ♖a2 22.♖b2 ♘d5∞ 23.♗e1! ♖xb2 24.♕xb2 c5 25.♗a5 ♘c7 White is putting some pressure on the queen side, but with accurate moves, Black can hold the position.



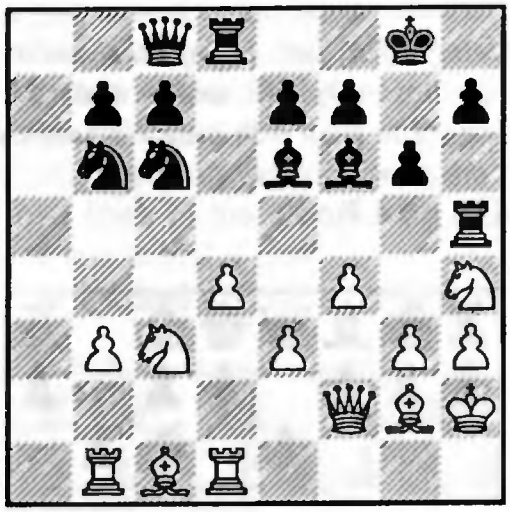
17.♖d1

Gelfand is following his plan: protect the pawn on d4 and play the powerful e4. He is not affraid of ♖h5.
17.g4 Was interesting also 17... ♖d8 18.b4 ♖a8 19.b5 ♘a5 20.♕c2 c6! 21.bxc6 ♕xc6 22.♘g5 ♗d5 23.e4 ♕c7+ 24.♔g1 ♗xd4 25.exd5 ♕xc3 26.♕xc3 ♗xc3 27.♖xe7=

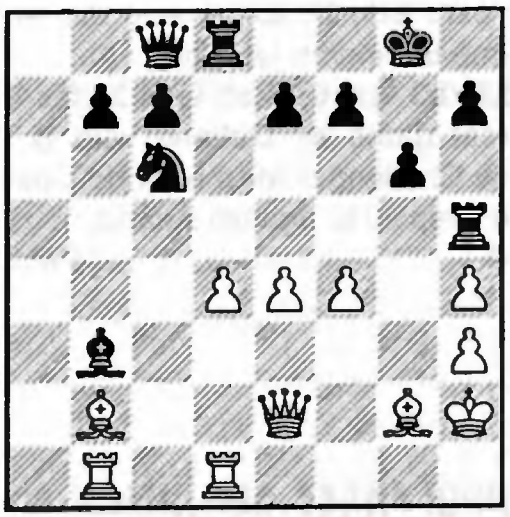
17... ♖h5 18.♘h4

Here is the idea of Gelfand! This move looks strange, but the knight is defending the white's king easily. And now, the black rook on h5 is not at his top! But what is doing Boris after ♗f6?

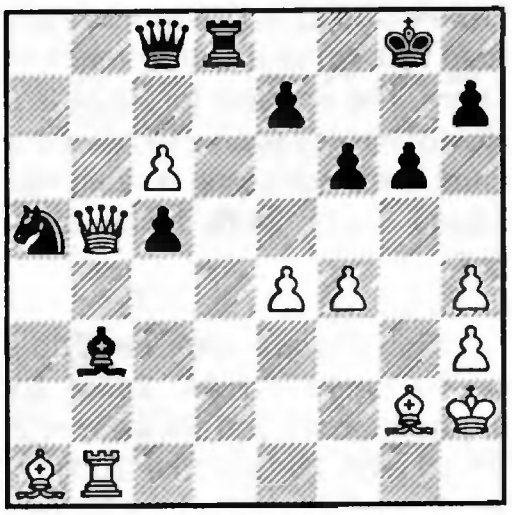
18... ♗f6 19.f4
Great concept by the israelian player! The doubling of pawn on h4 is not a problem. And after it, the white's dark bishop will shine!
19... ♖d8
19... ♗xh4 20.gxh4 ♖xh4 21.♔g3! ♖xh3+ 22.♗xh3 ♗xh3 23.d5 ♘b4 24.♗a3±
20.♕f2



20... ♗xh4?
In my opinion, this move was a decisive mistake for Grischuk,
20... ♘d5 was the only move in this position with a very nice idea! 21.♘xd5 ♖dxd5! Beautiful sacrifice, this is the point of the idea! 22.♗f3 (22.♗xd5 ♗xd5 23.♗d2 ♘a7 24.♖e1 ♕e6 25.♖a1 ♘b5∓ And Black has big compensation for the exchange.; 22.♗b2? ♖d8 23.♗c3 ♘a7 24.d5 ♗xd5 25.♗xf6 ♗xg2 26.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 27.♕xg2 exf6∓) 22... ♗xh3 23.e4 ♗xd4 24.♕e2 ♖c5 (24... ♖xh4 25.gxh4 ♖d6 26.f5 ♗xf5 27.exf5 ♕xf5 28.♗h6 ♘e5 29.♔g3 ♘xf3 30.♕xf3 ♕d7±) 25.♗xh5 (25.b4 ♖xh4 26.gxh4 ♖c3 27.b5 ♘e5! 28.fxe5 ♗xe5+ 29.♔g1 ♖xf3 30.♕xf3 ♗g4 31.♕d3 ♗xd1 32.♕xd1 ♕h3∞ Black is rook down, but has 4 pawns in compensation and the king in g1 is really weak.) 25... gxh5 26.♖d3 e5 27.f5 ♗g4 28.♕d2 f6⩱
21.gxh4 ♘d5 22.♘xd5 ♖hxd5 23.♗b2
And in fact White is simply much better here. The problem for Black is that Gelfand will play soon e4 followed with d5 and the Black's king is really weak. 23.♗xd5 ♗xd5 24.f5 ♕xf5 25.♕xf5 gxf5⩱
23... ♖b5
23... ♖5d6 Black's rook need to attack the pawn on d4. 24.f5! ♗xb3 (24... gxf5 25.d5 ♔f8 26.♗a3+−; 24... ♗xf5 25.e4±) 25.♖g1 ♗c4 26.♕c2 b5 27.fxg6 hxg6 28.d5 ♘a7 29.♕c3±
24.♕e2
The last key move, after which White is winning completely. The point is to attack the rook on b5, leaving this piece without a good square.
24... ♖h5 25.e4 ♗xb3



26.♖dc1± ♘a5 27.d5 b6 28.♗e5
28.♕e1 f6 29.♗c3 ♗a4 30.♗xa5 bxa5 31.♕xa5+−
28... c5 29.dxc6 f6 30.♗a1 ♖c5
30... ♗f7 31.e5±
31.♖xc5 bxc5 32.♕b5



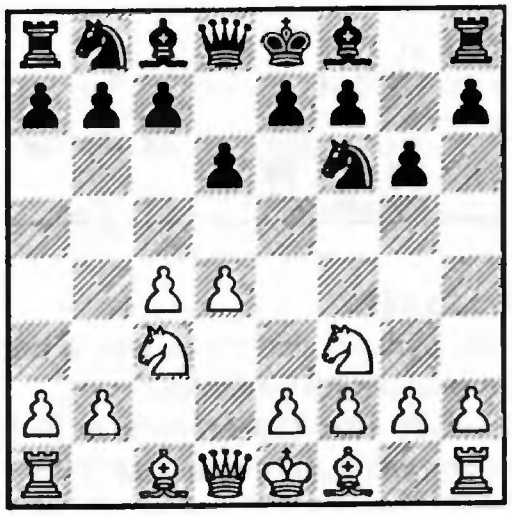
32... ♕c7?
32... ♗a2! It was the last chance for Grischuk to survive in the game. 33.♖b2 ♕c7 34.e5 (34.♖xa2?? ♕xf4+ 35.♔g1 ♖d1+ 36.♗f1 ♕g3+∓) 34... ♗e6 35.♕b6 ♕xb6 36.♖xb6 ♖c8 37.exf6 exf6 38.♗xf6± And this endgame is winning for White.
33.♖xb3 ♘xc6 34.e5 ♘d4 35.♕c4+
Great game by Gelfand who is the new Challenger for the World Championship 2012 against Anand.
1-0 *[S.Maze]*

(45) **[E61]**

□ **Melkumyan,H (2580)**
■ **Jobava,Ba (2704)**

41st Bosna Open Sarajevo BIH (7.1), 10.05.2011

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 d6
In this tournament I felt a lot of creativity–that's how I can explain why I played such a rare line. For this game I would also like to say a few words of thanks to IM Roman Kozel who showed me this opening idea just before the tournament "Bosna Open⊞, and to whom I had promised to play it in case I would ever get the chance.
3.♘f3 g6 4.♘c3



4... ♗f5!?
Here comes the idea! Black are preventing the movement of white's e pawn, leading a game into unknown rivers.
5.h3
Seems that Melkumyan decided to play original at "originality" and went on to the open water

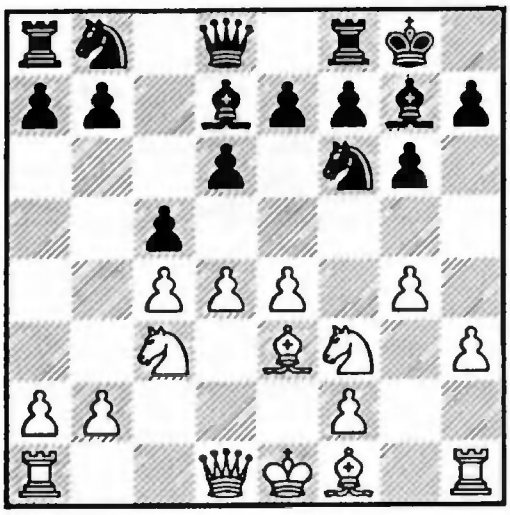
www.chess-evolution.com

5.g3 ♗g7 6.♗g2 0-0 7.0-0 ♘c6 One of the main positions of this rare line of Kings Indian; 5.♘h4 ♗d7 6.e4 ♗g7 7.♘f3 0-0 8.♗e2 e5 This position You can count as a little improved version, because it has a higher tempo compared to the main line of Kind Indian, the bishop is on d7 instead on the standard place–c8

5... ♗g7 6.g4 ♗d7 7.e4

To be honest, I don't understand, taking into the consideration that my previous play in this game was so bad, that Whites decide to make such a weakness on the king side, mainly saying that they will over run the defense lines of the blacks monarch. In reality–it is just a bluff

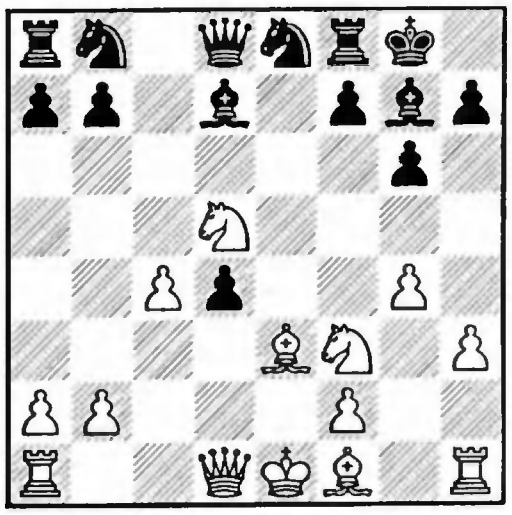
7... 0-0 8.♗e3 c5



With this move I am trying to get my opponent into Benoni structures, in which I myself am feeling very comfortable in, especially with the early g4 move, it can be only good for black

9.d5

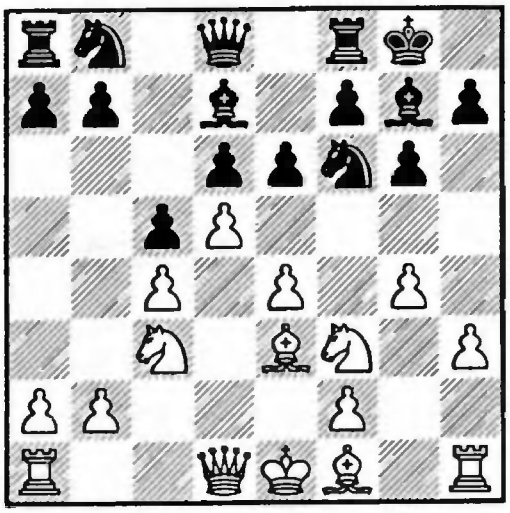
9.e5!? ♘e8 10.exd6 (10.dxc5 dxe5 (10... ♗c6 11.♗g2 ♘a6 12.cxd6 exd6 13.0-0 dxe5 14.♕xd8 ♖xd8 15.♖ad1 White got better perspectives) 11.♕d2 ♘c7 12.0-0-0 ♕c8 13.♗g2 ♖d8 With totally unclear position) 10... cxd4 (10... exd6 11.♗g2 cxd4 12.♘xd4 ♘c6 13.0-0±) 11.dxe7 (11.♗xd4 ♗c6 12.♗xg7 ♘xg7 13.♗g2 exd6 14.0-0 ♘e6 With unclear play. Actually, such positions require much more practical tests than analitical researches) 11... ♕xe7 12.♘d5 ♕d8



13.♘xd4 (13.♗xd4 ♘f6 14.♗e2 ♘c6 15.♗xf6 ♗xf6 16.♕d2 (16.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 17.♕xd7 ♕xb2 18.♕d1 (18.♖d1 ♖ad8 19.♕c7 ♖fe8 20.0-0 ♕xe2 21.♖xd8 ♖xd8 22.♘g5 ♕xc4 23.♕xb7 ♕d5 24.♖c1 ♕xg5 25.♕xc6 h5 26.♖c4 hxg4 27.hxg4 ♖d1+ 28.♔g2 ♕h4 29.♕e8+ ♔g7 30.♕e5+ ♔h7 31.♕h2 ♕xh2+ 32.♔xh2 ♖d2 33.♖a4 ♖xf2+ 34.♔g3=) 18... ♖fe8 19.♔f1 ♖ad8 20.♕e1 ♖xe2 21.♕xe2 ♕xa1+ 22.♔g2 ♕c3 And White will have a hard fight for a draw–cause of their weak pawns) 16... ♗g7

Without any doubts, black got a great compensation for the minimal material losses in the sense of bishop pair in an open position) 13... ♘c6 14.♗e2 ♘d6 Position is very complicated, but also here it is clear that Black should have enough compensation for a pawn

9... e6



10.♘d2

10.dxe6 ♗xe6 11.g5 ♘fd7! 12.♕xd6 ♘c6 13.♗e2 ♗xc3+! 14.bxc3 ♕a5∓; 10.e5 dxe5 11.dxe6 (11.♗xc5 ♖e8 12.dxe6 ♖xe6 13.♗g2 ♘c6 14.0-0 ♖e8 Here I would take Black color) 11... ♗xe6 12.♗xc5 ♘c6! Positional sacrifice of an exchange 13.♗xf8 ♕xf8 Even with an exchange down, blacks position here is almost winning. White is too late with their development and cannot defend against the rush of blacks pieces

10... exd5 11.cxd5

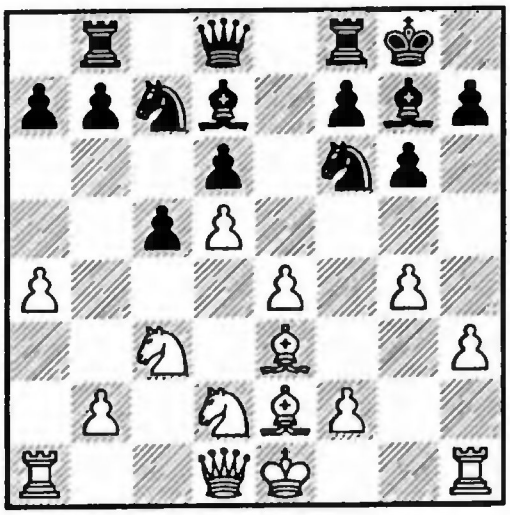
So finally we reached a position of a "Benoni style". In my opinion, Blacks chances are higher to fight for an advantage, because of the combination of threats on the queen's side as well as on the king's side and the center- formly crushing the white's attention.

11.exd5 ♘e8! With the idea of moving the f pawn forword, here we can see clearly the minus of early move g4.

11... ♘a6

With this move I am starting a standard plan which is connected to preparation of the future movement of the black pawn on the queen's side.

12.♗e2 ♘c7 13.a4 ♖b8

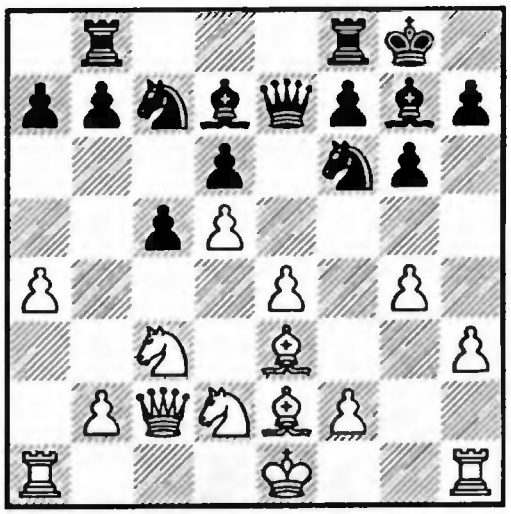


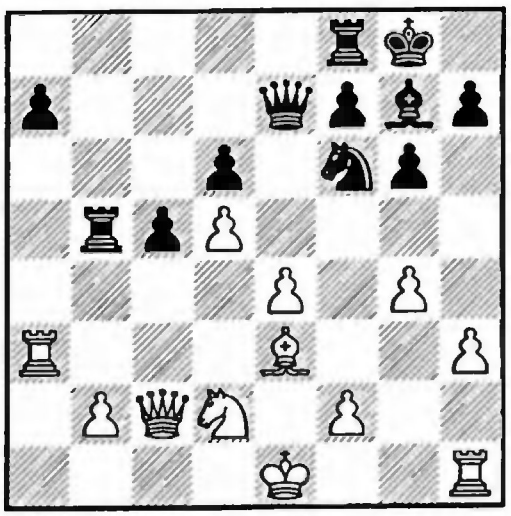
14.♕c2

Hrant doesn't castle too early. He is trying to prevent my action on the queen's side

14... ♕e7

An useful, multifunctional move. The pawn e4 is under attack, in some way also the ♗e3, plus the rooks are now connected.





15.♖a3

15.0-0!? h5 (15... a6!?) 16.g5 (16.f3? ♘fxd5 17.♘xd5 ♘xd5 18.exd5 ♕xe3+-+;

16.♗g5 hxg4 17.hxg4 b5 18.axb5 ♘xb5 19.♘xb5 ♗xb5 20.♗xb5 ♖xb5 With big pressure for Black) 16... ♘h7 17.h4 f5 18.exf5 (18.♘c4? f4 19.e5 ♘xg5 20.exd6 ♘h3+ 21.♔g2 ♕xh4 22.dxc7 fxe3 23.cxb8♕ ♘f4+ 24.♕xf4 ♖xf4 And the mate is coming soon; 18.f4!? fxe4 19.♖ae1⩱) 18... ♗xf5 19.♕b3 ♗d4 20.♘b5 ♘xb5 21.axb5 ♖be8 22.♗f3 white is holding

15... b5

No breaks anymore. Everything stands ready!

16.axb5 ♘xb5 17.♘xb5 ♗xb5 18.♗xb5 ♖xb5

Chess Evolution
Top analysis by Super GMs

19.0-0! h5

19... ♖fb8!? 20.b3 ♖b4 21.♖e1 (21.♖a4 ♖xa4 22.bxa4 h5 23.g5 ♘d7 with a symbolic advantage for black) ; 19... ♖b4!? 20.♗g5 (20.f3 ♕e5 (20... ♘d7 21.♖xa7 ♖xb2 22.♕d1 ♕d8 23.♘c4 ♖b4 24.♖a4 and White are somehow holding their pieces together) 21.♗f2! ♖xb2 22.♕d3 ♕f4 23.♘c4 ♖xf2! 24.♖xf2 ♕g3+ 25.♖g2 ♕xh3 26.♕d1 ♘d7 27.♖h2 ♕g3+ 28.♖g2 Seems that position is equal) 20... ♕e5 21.♗xf6 ♕xf6 22.♘c4 ♕f4∓

20.f3

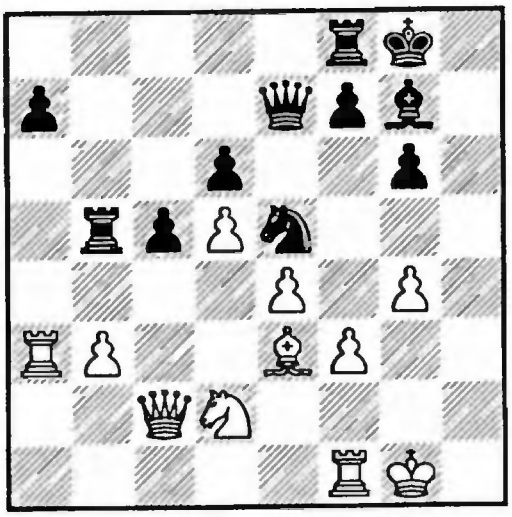
20.g5?! ♘h7 21.h4 ♖xb2 22.♕d3 ♕d7 23.♗f4 f5 24.♕h3 ♖e8 25.exf5 ♖b4 26.♕f3 ♕xf5 27.♗xd6 ♖xh4 28.♕xf5 gxf5 29.♘f3 ♖g4+ 30.♔h2 ♖d8 31.♗xc5 ♖xd5 32.♗xa7 ♘xg5 33.♘xg5 ♖xg5 and draw is near. All these lines are showing us, that there are no less defensive motives than attacking ones

20... hxg4 21.hxg4 ♘d7 22.b3!

22.♘c4?! ♘b6 23.b3 ♘xc4 24.♕xc4 ♖fb8∓ Combining–the pressure on the b Line plus the threats on the kind side showing us that black got a stable

advantage; 22.♖xa7?! ♖xb2 23.♕d3 ♕d8!∓

22... ♘e5



22... f5 23.♖xa7 fxg4 24.♕d3! ♖bb8 25.f4 Also here White is holding. Actually, to my surprise, during the game I could not find clear ways to get an advantage–and these analyses are only showing this to us.

23.♖a4!

A usefull, ice cold move

23... ♕d7

23... ♕h4 24.♔g2 ♘xg4 25.fxg4 ♕xg4+ 26.♔f2 f5 27.♔e1±

24.♔g2 ♖b7

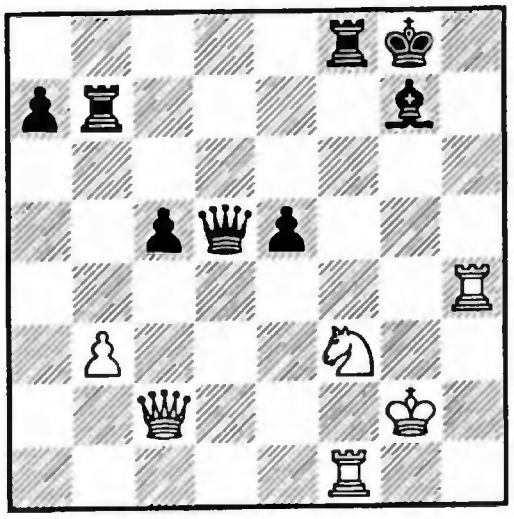
24... f5 25.exf5 gxf5 26.♖h1 Looking dangerous for black, so I decided to spare the breakthrough for a better time

25.♗f2 f5

That already appeared. But Hrant, with cool play, resists all of my attacking attempts and is even getting the first chance in the game to gain a better position

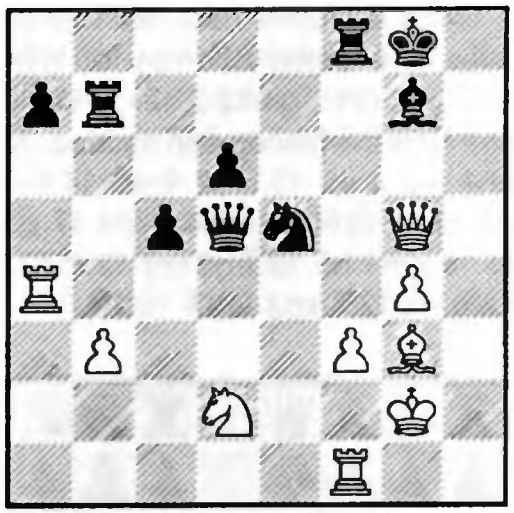
26.exf5 gxf5 27.♗g3! ♕f7

Better chance would be 27... fxg4 28.f4 (I have been afraid of 28.♗xe5 gxf3+ 29.♘xf3 dxe5 30.♖h4 and didn't see a phantastic–super cool answer 30... ♕xd5!!



31.♕h7+ ♔f7 32.♖e4 ♔e8! 33.♘xe5 ♖xf1 (33... ♗xe5 34.♕h5+ ♔e7 35.♕h4+ ♔d6 36.♖xf8 ♖g7+ 37.♔f1 ♕d3+ 38.♖e2 ♔c7! 39.♕d8+ ♕xd8 40.♖xd8 ♖f7+! 41.♔g2 ♔xd8 42.♖xe5 ♖c7 43.♔f3 ♔d7 44.♔e4 ♔c6 45.♔d3 ♔b5 46.♔c3=) 34.♔xf1 ♔d8! 35.♘c6+ ♔c7 (35... ♕xc6 36.♕g8+ ♗f8! (36... ♔c7 37.♖e7+ ♔b6 38.♖e6) 37.♕xf8+ ♔c7 38.♖h4=) 36.♘a5 ♕f7+ 37.♔g2 ♖b6 38.♖g4 ♕d5+ 39.♔g3 ♕e5+ 40.♔g2= Is it not true?! Chess is a beautiful game!) 28... ♘f3 29.♘xf3 gxf3+ 30.♖xf3 ♕f5 31.♕xf5 ♖xf5 32.♖d3 ♗d4 33.♗f2 ♖xf4 34.♗xd4 cxd4 35.♖dxd4

28.♕xf5 ♕xd5 29.♕g5



29... ♖bf7?

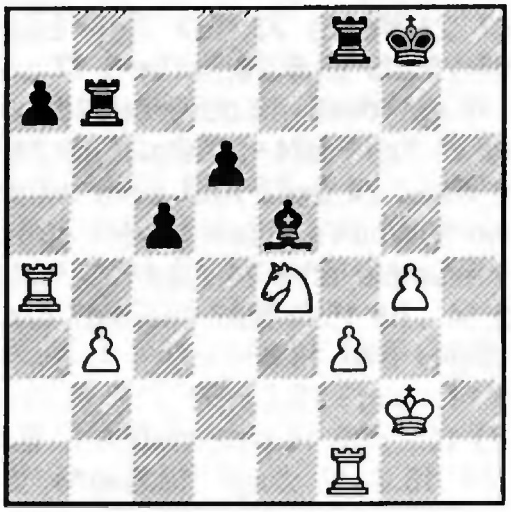
29... ♕d3 30.♗xe5 ♕e2+ 31.♖f2 ♕xe5 32.♕xe5 ♗xe5 And soon, a draw should have been an outcome, but as often as it happens, I continued my play for a win and this typical mistake could have cost me a lot...

30.♗xe5?

Thanks on a thanks

After 30.♖e4!± I would have to suffer a lot 30... a5 31.♗xe5 dxe5 32.♖f2 Here knight is clearly much stronger than the bishop

30... ♕xe5 31.♕xe5 ♗xe5 32.♘e4 ♖b7



33.f4!

A forced way to a draw.

33... ♗xf4 34.♘xc5! dxc5 35.♖fxf4 ♖xf4 36.♖xf4 ♖xb3 37.♖a4! ♖b7 38.♔f3 ♔f7 39.♖a6 ♖c7 40.♔e3 ♔e7

A full game with a lot of nuances!

½-½ *[B.Jobava]*

(46) [E70]

☐ Navara,David (2702)
■ Dominguez Perez,Leinier (2726)

46th Capablanca Memorial Elite Havana CUB (8), 19.05.2011

1.d4

Unbalanced from the beginning, we can call this game like a "Petrosjan" approach against the Benoni. White provokes some weakness on Black's kingside using the famous bishop manoeuvre, but then "deviates" making the castle. Dominguez enjoys his dominant darksquares bishop and with a well timed exchange in the center can stop the opponent's play with a text-book example on the subject: "blockade with a knight". Maybe this time Nimzovitsch outplayed Petrosjan...

1... ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.♗d3

The main lines:

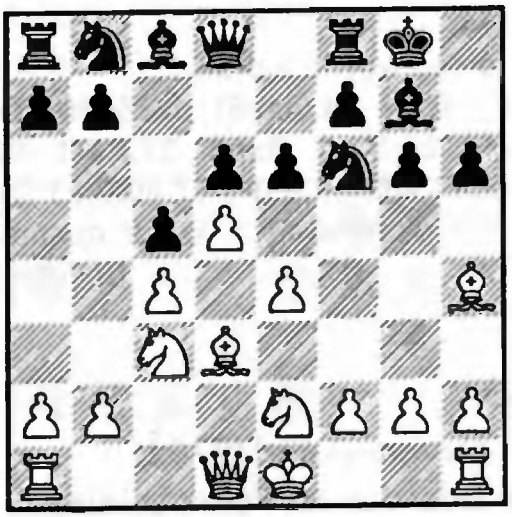
5.♘f3; 5.♗e2 0-0 6.♗g5 (6.♘f3) ;

5.f4 I play myself 4 pawn's attack, which reaches to very sharp positions.

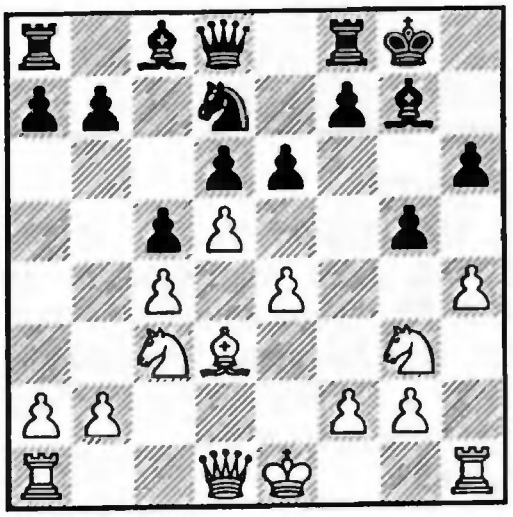
5... 0-0 6.♘ge2 c5 7.d5 e6 8.♗g5 h6

Black has to play this move, otherwise, White will play ♕d2 and it's hard to avoid the unpleasant pin.

9.♗h4

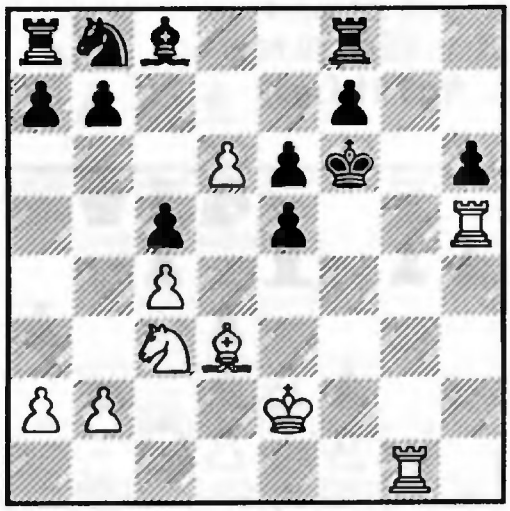


Maybe, Navara's choice is the best, to provoke black push g pawn and create some weakness on Black's kingside.
9.♗d2 Petrosjan – Fischer, Herceg Novi blitz, 1970 9... ♘bd7 10.b3 exd5 11.cxd5 a6 12.0-0 b5 13.f4; 9.♗f4 ♘g4! Eljanov–Radjabov, Wijk aan Zee 2008 10.♕d2 ♘a6 11.a3 ♘c7 12.f3 ♘e5 13.0-0 exd5 14.cxd5 ♘xd3 15.♕xd3 b6∓
9... g5
I guess that Dominguez has to hurry with text move, because, for example if Black plays
9... ♘a6 then 10.f4 and after 10... exd5 11.exd5! I guess this positions are better for White. He has more space and plan to assault Black's King residance in near future.**a)** 11.cxd5 ♕b6!∓; **b)** 11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5 dxc4 13.exf6 cxd3 (13... ♗xf6 14.♗xf6 ♕xf6 15.♘d5 ♕g5 16.♗e4± (16.♗xc4? ♕h4+ 17.g3 ♕xc4)) 14.fxg7 ♕xh4+ 15.g3 dxe2 16.♕xe2 ♕f6 17.gxf8♕+ ♔xf8 18.0-0-0 ♗f5∞;
10.♗g3 ♘h5 11.0-0
11.h4!? Again on Petrosjan footsteps! This idea is typical in the Kings Indian, but looks effective here as well and maybe is a better attempt for White. 11... ♘xg3 (11... g4 12.♗h2! This is the point! Now the bishop can escape. 12... ♕xh4 (12... e5 13.♕d2 ♘a6 14.0-0-0 ♘c7 15.f4! exf4 16.♘xf4 ♘xf4 17.♗xf4 ♕f6 18.♖df1 h5 19.♗g3+–) 13.♕d2 g3 14.fxg3↑) 12.♘xg3 ♘d7

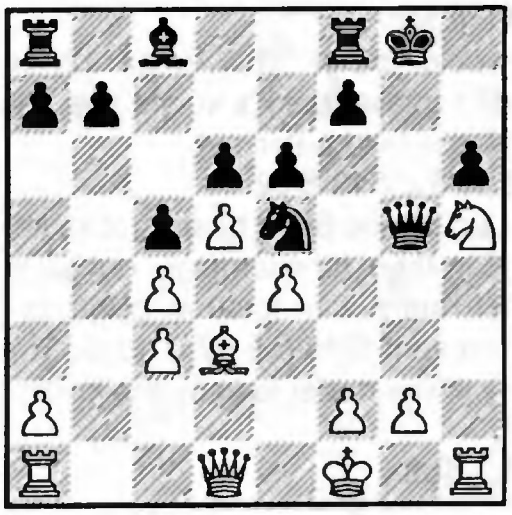


(12... gxh4 13.♘h5
a) 13... ♕g5 14.g3!
a1) 14... ♗xc3+ 15.bxc3 exd5 16.f4! ♕e7 (16... ♕g6 17.e5 ♗f5 18.♘f6+ ♔g7 19.♗xf5 ♕xf5 20.g4 ♕g6 21.cxd5 dxe5 22.fxe5 ♕g5 (22... ♖d8 23.0-0 ♘d7 24.♕e2±) 23.♕e2 ♖d8 24.0-0 ♘d7 25.♖f5 ♕g6 26.♖af1+–) 17.cxd5 f5 18.e5! dxe5 19.d6 ♕e8 20.gxh4 ♔h8 21.♖g1↑ exf4+ 22.♕e2 ♘c6 23.0-0-0 ♕xe2 24.♗xe2 And even without queens White's attack is very strong. For example, after 24... ♗d7 25.♖g6+–
a2) 14... h3 15.f4 ♕e7 16.♘xg7 ♔xg7 17.♕g4+ ♔h7 18.e5++–;
a3) 14... hxg3 15.♘xg7!
a31) 15... ♕f6 16.♕d2 ♕xf2+ 17.♕xf2 gxf2+ 18.♔xf2 ♔xg7 19.♖ag1+ ♔f6

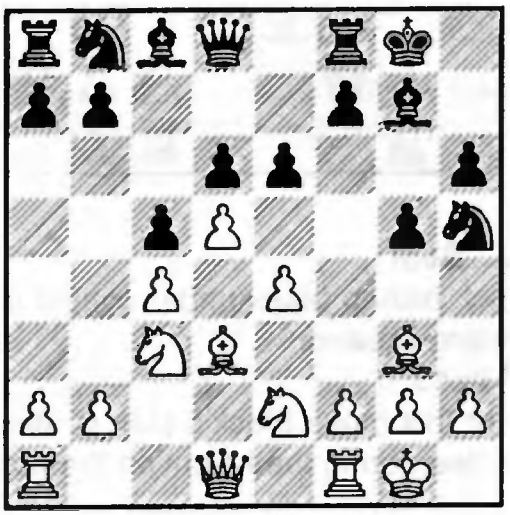
20.e5+ ♔e7 21.♘b5 dxe5 22.♘c7 ♘a6 23.♘xa8 ♗d7 24.♗e4 ♖xa8 25.dxe6 ♗xe6 26.♗xb7+−;
a32) 15... ♔xg7 16.♖g1 ♔h8 17.♖xg3→;
a33) 15... gxf2+ 16.♔xf2 ♕f6+ 17.♔e2 ♔xg7 18.♕g1+ ♕g5 19.e5!! dxe5 20.♖h5 ♕xg1 21.♖xg1+ ♔f6 22.d6!



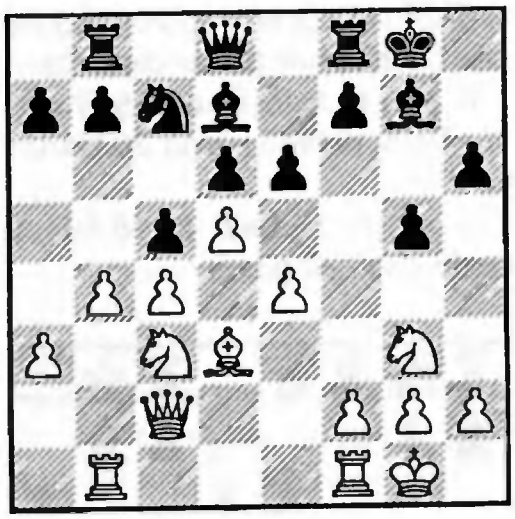
22... ♖h8 (22... ♘d7 23.♖xh6#) 23.♘e4#;
b) 13... exd5 14.♘xd5 ♗xb2? 15.♕d2! ♗xa1 (15... ♗g7 16.♘xg7 ♔xg7 17.♕c3+ f6 18.♖xh4 With decisive attack!) 16.♕xh6 f5 17.♕g6+ ♔h8 18.g3+−;
c) 13... ♗d4 14.♘b5! with the same idea as before 14... ♗xb2 15.♕d2! ♗xa1 (15... ♗g7 16.♘xg7 ♔xg7 17.♕f4 e5 18.♕xh4 ♕xh4 19.♖xh4+−) 16.♕xh6 f5 17.♕g6+ ♔h8 18.g3 exd5 19.e5! ♗xe5 20.♖xh4 ♕xh4 21.gxh4 ♘c6 22.♔d2! ♗d7 23.f4+−;)
13.♘h5 ♗xc3+ 14.bxc3 ♘e5 15.hxg5 ♕xg5 16.♔f1!



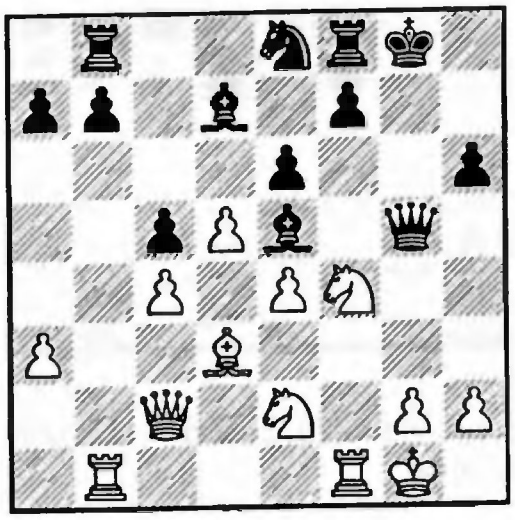
a) 16... ♘xd3 17.♕xd3 exd5 (17... e5 18.♘g3±) 18.cxd5 ♗g4 (18... f5 19.e5! dxe5 20.♖e1 e4 (20... f4? 21.♖xe5 ♗f5 (21... ♕xe5 22.♕g6+ ♔h8 23.♕xh6+ ♔g8 24.♕g6+ ♔h8 25.♘f6+ ♗h3 26.♕h7#) 22.♕e2±) 21.♕c4 b6 22.g3 ♗b7 23.♘f4±) 19.f4 ♕g6 20.♘g3 ♖ae8 21.♖e1 White has better chances
b) 16... f5 17.exf5 ♘xd3 18.♕xd3 e5 (18... ♕xf5 19.♕g3+ ♕g5 20.♕xd6+−) 19.g4!+−;
c) 16... ♕g6 17.♗e2! f5 18.♘f4 ♕f6 19.exf5 ♕xf5 20.g3±;



11... ♘a6
I would prefer 11... ♘xg3 12.♘xg3 ♘d7 I guess Black's knight has better future in the center
12.a3 ♘c7 13.♕c2
13.♗c2!? and Black hasn't got anything better than to exchange on g3 and then return with another knight to e8 to prevent ♕d3–e5–♕h7 idea. That's why it was better to keep the knight on d7.
13... ♖b8
13... f5 14.exf5 (14.f4 ♘xg3 15.hxg3 exd5 16.cxd5 fxe4 17.♗xe4 ♗g4∞) 14... exf5 15.f4 g4 16.♗e1 b6 17.b4 ♗d7 18.♖b1 Black has too passive position, which, I'm sure Dominguez saw during the game.
14.♖ab1 ♘xg3 15.♘xg3 ♗d7 16.b4

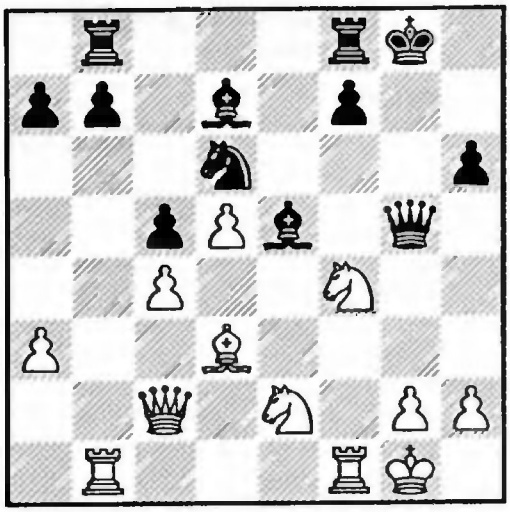


16... ♗e5!
Black bishop takes under control important squares
17.bxc5
After this move Black's plan is already clear: bring the knight on the blokkading square on d6 and then to play on the dark squares on kingside
17.♘ce2 with the idea after ♕d2–♘h5 advancement of pawn on f2 was better than the move in the text.
17... dxc5 18.♘ce2 ♘e8 19.f4
19.♘h5!? ♘d6 20.f4 gxf4 21.♘exf4 ♕g5 22.♖f3 ♔h8 23.♖g3 ♕h4 24.♕d2 ♖g8 25.♖h3 ♕g5 26.♖g3 ♕h4=
19... gxf4 20.♘xf4
20.♘h5 ♘d6 -19.Nh5
20... ♕g5 21.♘ge2

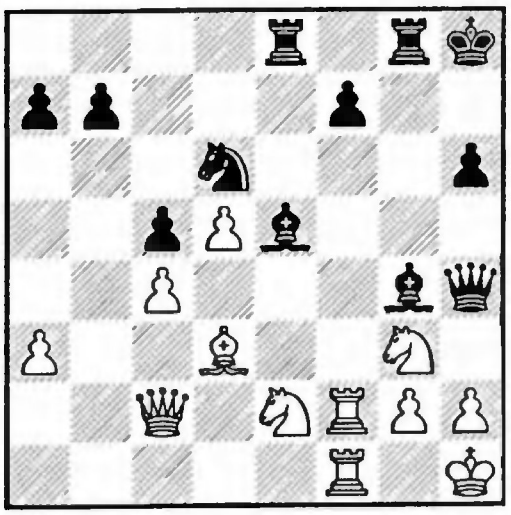


21... exd5
21... ♘d6!? 22.♖f3 exd5 (22... ♔h7!? 23.♖bf1 ♖g8∞) 23.♖g3 ♗g4 24.h3 h5 25.♖f1 b5! 26.exd5 (26.hxg4? h4 27.♖h3 dxc4∓; 26.cxd5 c4 27.hxg4 h4 28.♖gf3 ♖bc8 29.♕d1 cxd3 30.♘xd3 ♖fe8 31.♘xe5 ♖xe5 32.♘c3 ♕xg4 33.♕d2=) 26... bxc4 27.♗xc4 ♖b2 28.♕c1 ♘e4 29.♕e3 ♘xg3 30.♕xg3 ♖c2 31.♗d3 ♖d2 32.hxg4 hxg4 33.♗c4 I like Black's position more.
22.exd5?!
22.cxd5 b6 23.♗b5 ♗xb5 (23... ♗g4 24.♗xe8 ♖bxe8 25.♖b3 f5 26.♘e6

♖xe6 27.dxe6 f4 with full compensation for exchange down.) 24.♖xb5 c4! (24... ♘d6 25.♖b3 ♔h7 26.♖h3↑) 25.♖bb1 ♘d6 26.♖f3 ♔h7∓;
22.♘xd5!? with idea ♔h1-♘g1-f3, or double rooks on f file and make pressure.
22... ♘d6∓

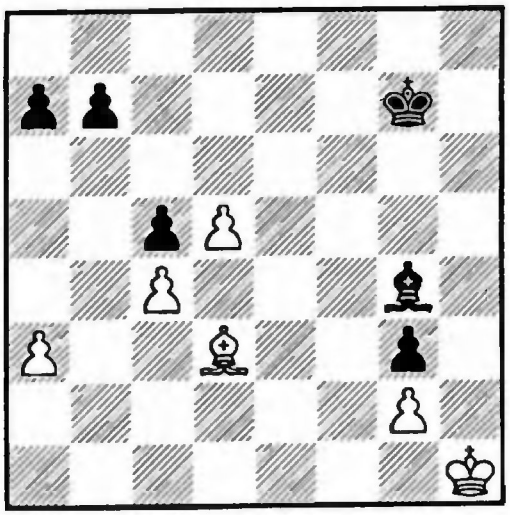


Fix the Black's advantage. Very hard to advise White for anything here. Navara has nothing better than to just wait and watch how his opponent is slowly improving his position.
23.♔h1 ♖be8 24.♖f2 ♔h8 25.♖bf1 ♖g8
Black is playing according to his plan. After a series of very logical moves his pieces are all ideally placed and he enjoys better chances already.
26.♘g3 ♗g4! 27.♘fe2
27.♘e4 ♘xe4 28.♗xe4 ♗d4 29.♖d2 ♖e5!∓
27... ♕h4



28.♖xf7!?
This exchange sacrifice (again Petrosjan's inspiration on Navara?) looks like the best practical chance. The strong knight on d6 is eliminated and also the Black's king is not completely safe. The problems on dark squares will remain till the end though.
28... ♘xf7 29.♖xf7 ♖e7! 30.♖xe7 ♕xe7 31.♘f5 ♕g5 32.♘eg3 h5 33.♕f2 h4 34.♕e1 ♗xg3!?
34... ♖e8 35.♘d6 ♖e7 36.♘gf5 ♗xd6 37.♘xe7 ♕xe7 win a piece, but the idea of playing the endgame found by Dominguez is also nice and instructive.
35.♕c3+ ♖g7 36.♕xg7+ ♕xg7 37.♘xg7 ♔xg7 38.hxg3 hxg3

Top analysis by Super GMs



After this forced line the complications ended in a simple bishop endgame winning for Black.

39.♔g1 ♔f6 40.♔f1 ♔e5 41.♔e1 ♔d4 42.♗g6

42.♗e2 ♗d7 43.♔d2 a6 44.♗f1 b5-+

42... ♔xc4 43.♗f7 ♔b5!

The last accuracy. All is over now.

44.♗e8+ ♔b6 45.d6 ♗f5 46.a4 a5 47.♔d2 ♗e4 48.♔e3 ♗xg2 49.♔f4 ♗c6

Good game!

0-1 *[B.Jobava]*

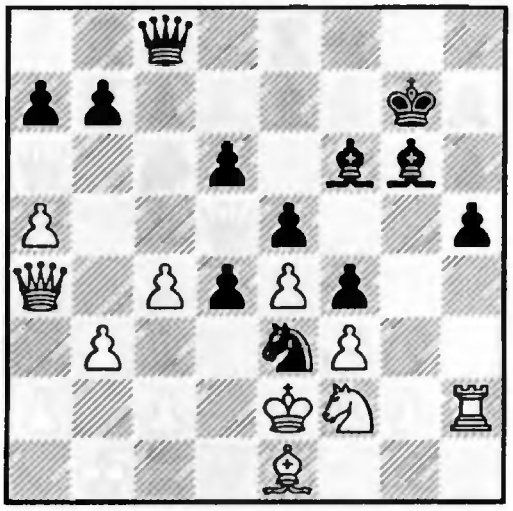
COMBINATIONS

(1) **[B40]**

□ **Kovacevic,Aleksan. (2575)**

■ **Predojevic,Borki (2617)**

Open Sarajevo (7.5), 10.05.2011



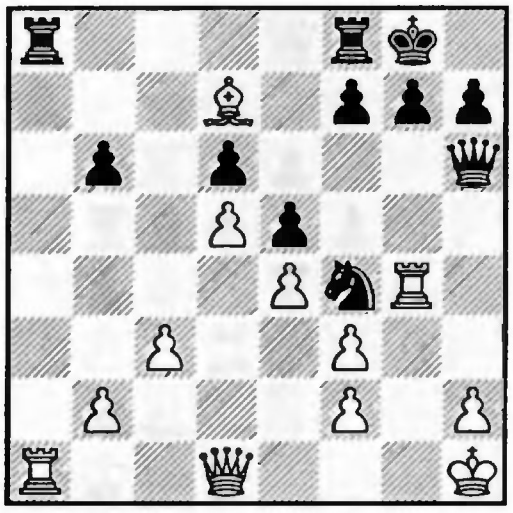
45... ? -+

(2) **[C78]**

□ **Hou Yifan (2612)**

■ **Caruana,F (2714)**

AAI GM New Delhi IND (3), 24.06.2011



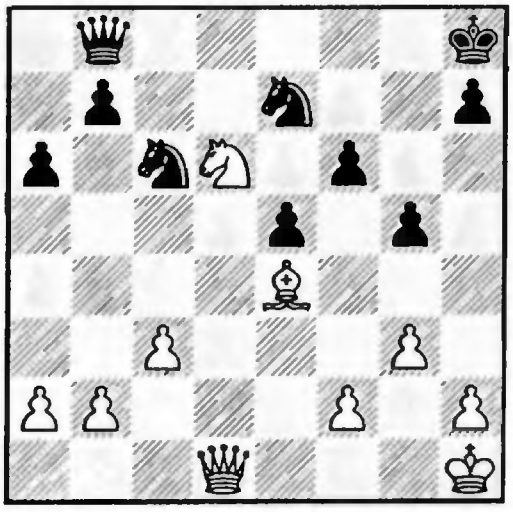
29... ? -+

(3) **[B42]**

□ **Timofeev,Arty (2665)**

■ **Reshetnikov,Al (2487)**

64th ch-RUS HL Taganrog.2011



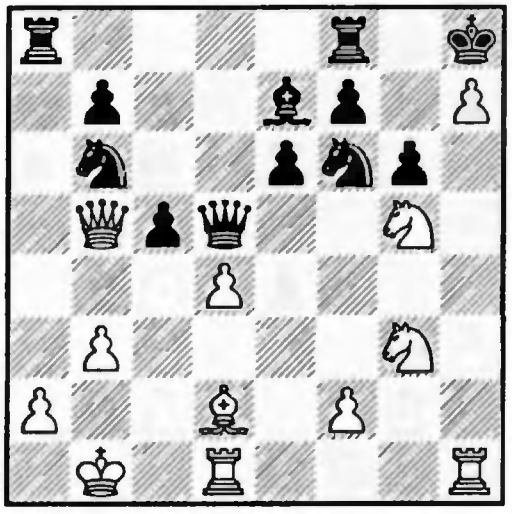
32. ? +-

(4) **[B19]**

□ **Pikula,D (2531)**

■ **Berkes,F (2693)**

TCh-BIH 2011 Neum BIH, 11.06.2011



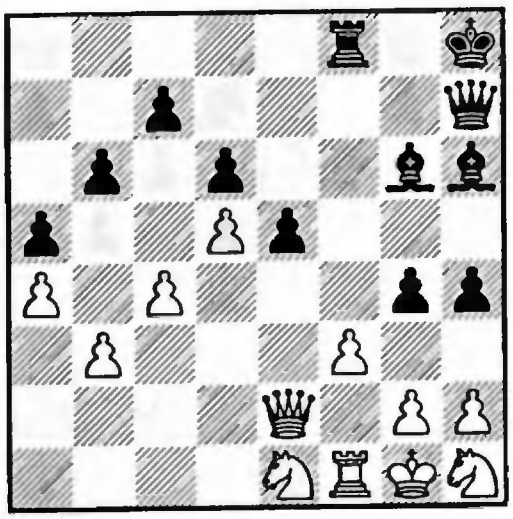
25... ? ∓

(5) **[E98]**

☐ **Renet,O (2497)**

■ **Giri,A (2687)**

TCh-FRA Top 12 2011 Mulhouse 2011



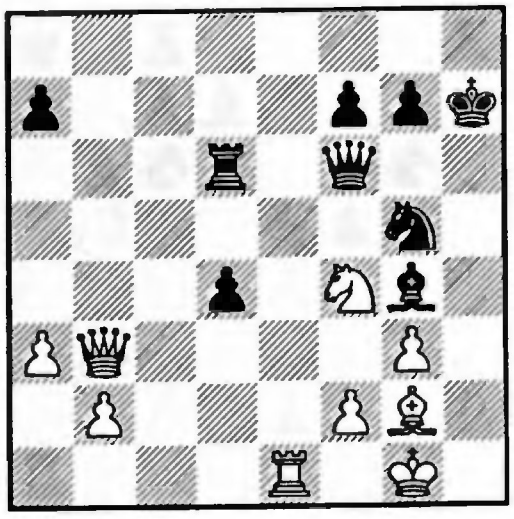
38... ? -+

(6) **[E46]**

☐ **Lafuente,P (2555)**

■ **Naiditsch,A (2716)**

41st Bosna Open Sarajevo BIH2011



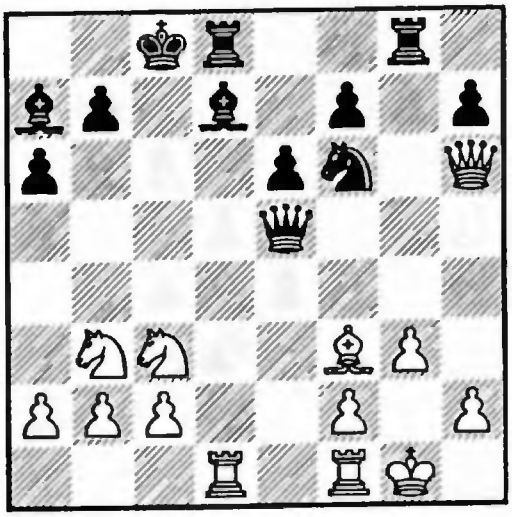
28... ? -+

(7) **[B42]**

☐ **Salgado Lopez,I (2623)**

■ **Smirin,I (2661)**

IX Gyorgy Marx Mem Paks HUN 2011



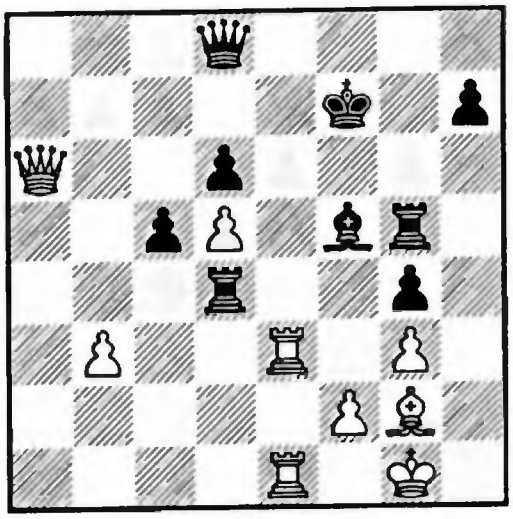
18... ? -+

(8) **[E12]**

☐ **Korobov,A (2660)**

■ **Brodsky,M (2558)**

TCh-UKR Clubs 2011 Alushta UKR 2011



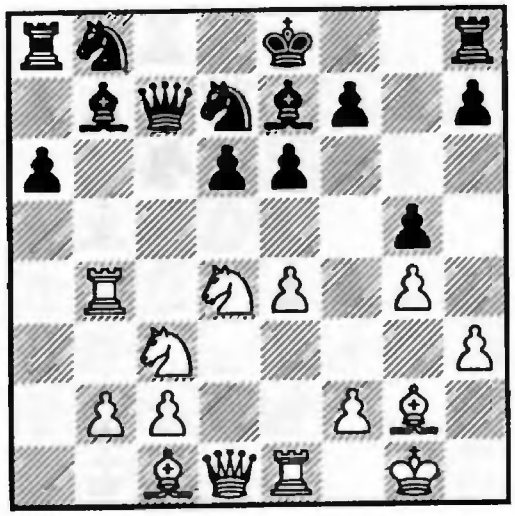
44. ? +-

(13) **[B90]**

☐ **Sek,K (2432)**

■ **Zakhartsov,Vi (2578)**

64th ch-RUS HL Taganrog RUS 2011



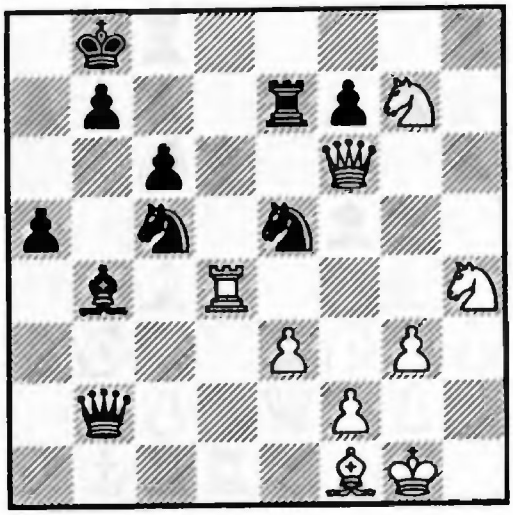
14. ? +-

(14) **[D17]**

☐ **Jakovenko,D (2732)**

■ **Najer,E (2643)**

64th ch-RUS HL Taganrog RUS 2011



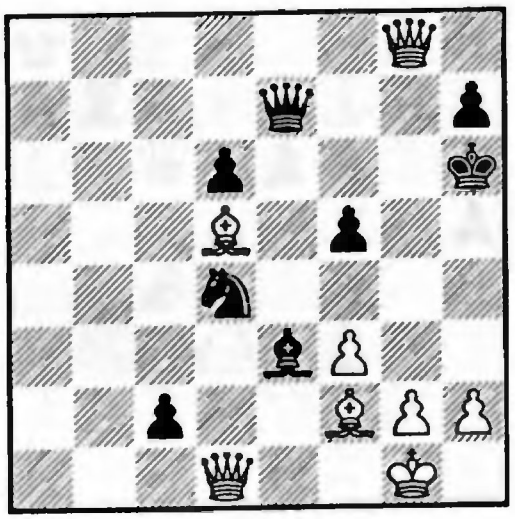
31... ? -+

(15) **[E92]**

☐ **Volkov,Sergey1 (2615)**

■ **Inarkiev,E (2679)**

64th ch-RUS HL Taganrog RUS 2011



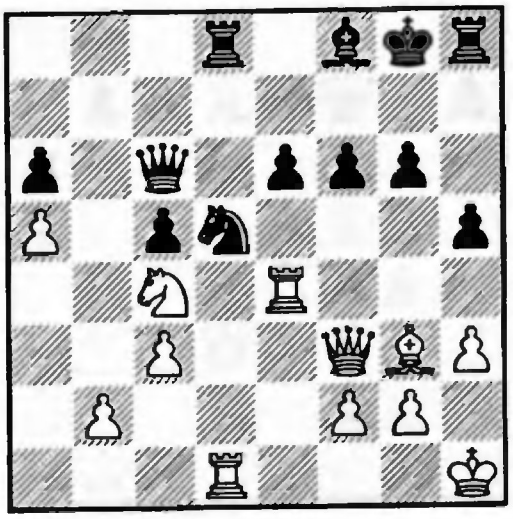
41. ? +-

(16) **[B30]**

☐ **Khalifman,A (2627)**

■ **Sitnikov,D (2463)**

64th ch-RUS HL Taganrog RUS 2011



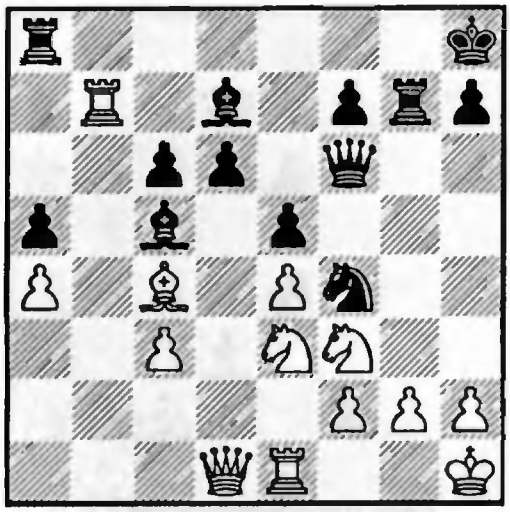
24. ? +-

(9) **[C49]**

☐ **Vallejo Pons,F (2722)**

■ **Granda Zuniga,J (2614)**

I Bahia Feliz GM Bahia Feliz ESP2011



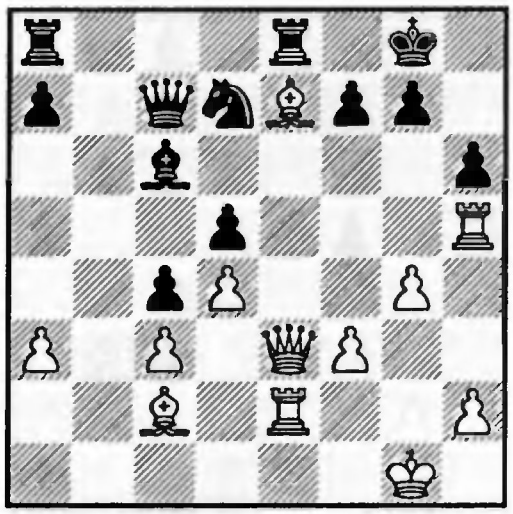
24... ? -+

(10) **[D38]**

☐ **Williams,Si1 (2520)**

■ **Eljanov,P (2712)**

TCh-FRA Top 12 2011 Mulhouse 2011



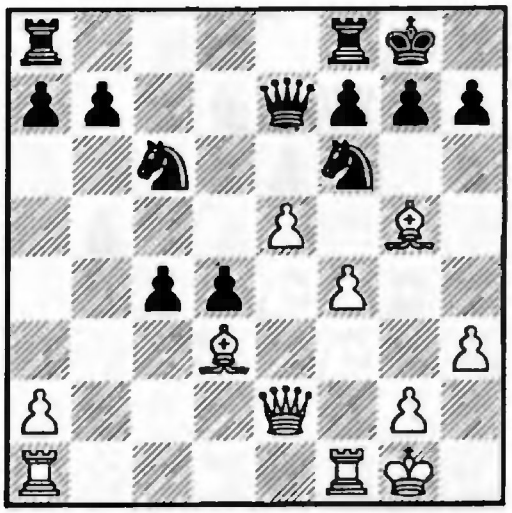
31. ? +-

(11) **[E40]**

☐ **Navrotescu,C (2427)**

■ **Abergel,T (2506)**

35th Open Fourmies FRA 2011



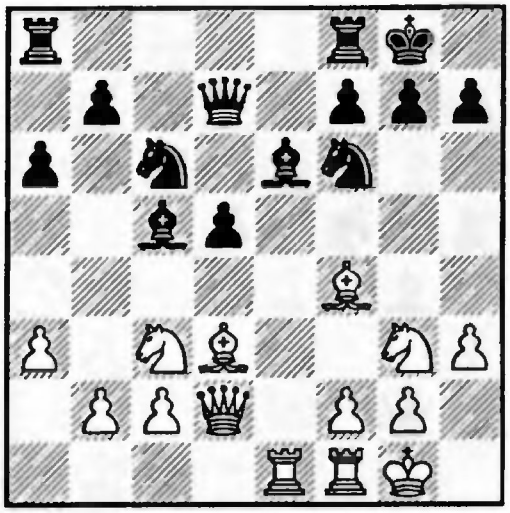
17. ? +-

(12) **[C11]**

☐ **Balaian,Ali (2163)**

■ **Matveeva,S (2380)**

61st ch-RUS HL w Taganrog RUS2011



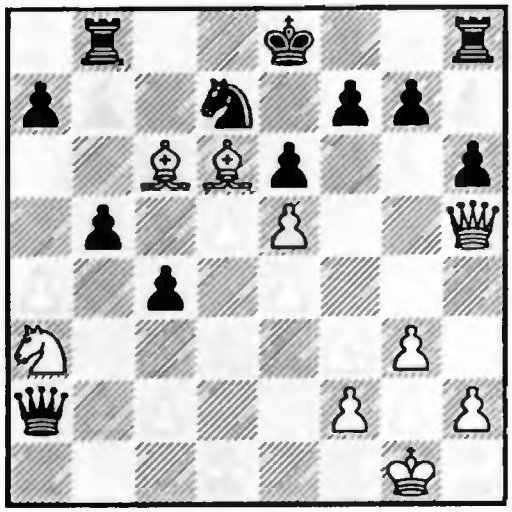
15. ? +-

(17) **[E04]**

☐ **Le Quang Liem (2687)**

■ **David,Alb (2593)**

TCh-FRA Top 12 2011 Mulhouse 2011



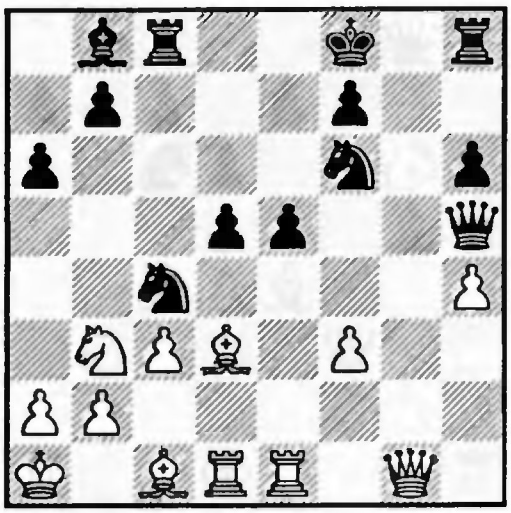
20... ? -+

(18) **[B90]**

☐ **Kamsky,G (2732)**

■ **Gelfand,B (2733)**

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS 2011



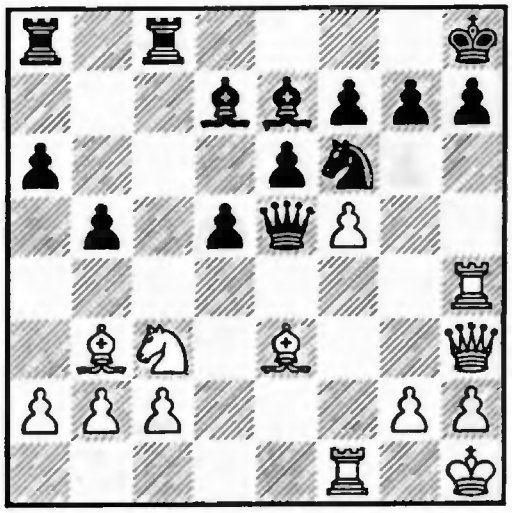
29... ? +-

(19) **[B87]**

☐ **Mamedyarov,S (2772)**

■ **Gelfand,B (2733)**

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS 2011



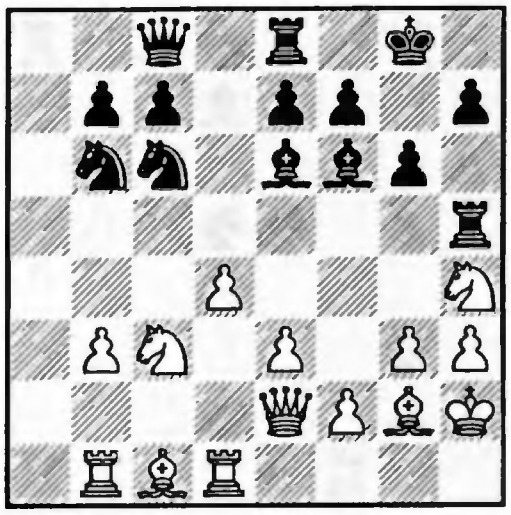
20... ? ∓

(20) **[E60]**

☐ **Gelfand,B (2733)**

■ **Grischuk,A (2747)**

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS 2011



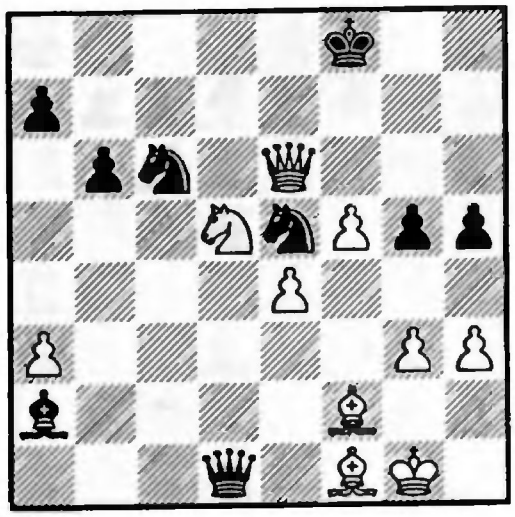
19. ? ‡

(21) **[A15]**

☐ **Topalov,V (2775)**

■ **Kamsky,G (2732)**

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS 2011



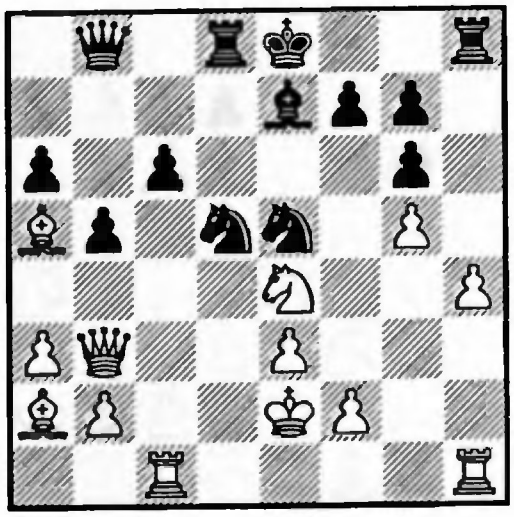
45... ? =

(22) **[D11]**

☐ **Volkov,Sergey1 (2621)**

■ **Sokolov,Ivan (2643)**

Nakhchivan Open Nakhchivan AZE 2011



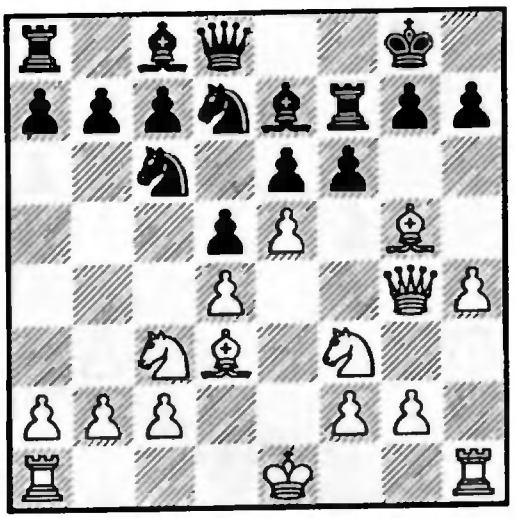
23... ? -+

(23) **[C13]**

☐ **Hector,J (2588)**

■ **So,W (2667)**

19th Sigeman & Co Malmo SWE 2011



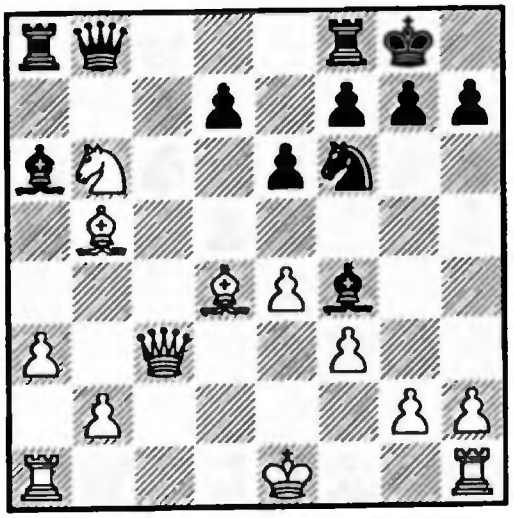
10. ? ±

(24) **[A30]**

☐ **Ivanchuk,V (2776)**

■ **Nisipeanu,LD (2659)**

5th Kings Tournament Medias ROU 2011



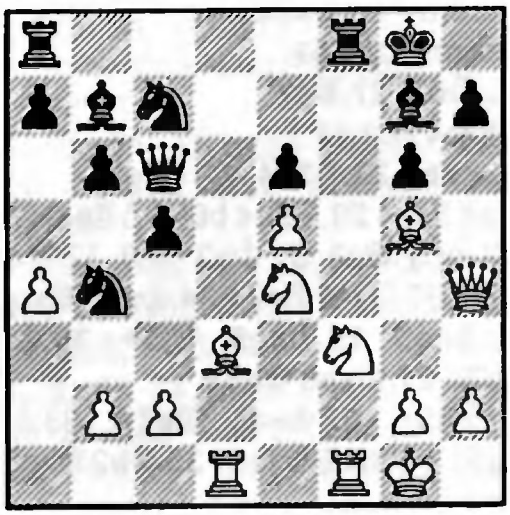
18. ? ±

(25) **[B09]**

□ **Karjakin,Sergey (2776)**

■ **Ivanchuk,V (2776)**

5th Kings Tournament Medias ROU 2011



18. ? **+−**

(1) **[B40]**

□ **Kovacevic,Aleksan. (2575)**

■ **Predojevic,Borki (2617)**

Open Sarajevo (7.5), 10.05.2011

45...d5!! 46.exd5

46.cxd5 d3+! 47.♘xd3 ♕c2+ 48.♗d2 ♕d1+ 49.♔f2 ♕f1#

46...d3+! 47.♘xd3

47.♔d2 ♘f1+-+

47...♕f5! 48.♘b4

48.♘f2 ♕c2+ 49.♗d2 ♗d3+! 50.♔e1 ♕b1+ 51.♗c1 ♕xc1+

48...e4-+ -> 49.♖f2 exf3+ 50.♖xf3 ♕e4 51.♕d7+ ♔h6 52.♕e6 ♗e5 53.♖xe3 ♕xe3+ 54.♔f1 ♕f3+?!⊕ [54...f3!-+] **55.♔g1 ♗d4+ 56.♔h2 ♗e3 57.♗h4 ♕e2+ 58.♔h3 ♕f1+ 59.♔h2 ♕g1+**

59...♕g1+ 60.♔h3 ♕h1#

0-1

(2) **[C78]**

□ **Hou Yifan (2612)**

■ **Caruana,F (2714)**

AAI GM New Delhi IND (3), 24.06.2011

28...♘d3! 29.♔g2 [29.♖g2 ♘xb2-+] **29...♖xa1 30.♕xa1 ♕d2 31.♕f1 h5 32.♖g3 ♖a8 33.♗b5 ♘f4+ 34.♔h1 ♕xb2 35.♖g1 ♕xc3 36.♗e2 ♖a2 37.♗d1 ♕d4 0-1**

(3) **[B42]**

□ **Timofeev,Arty (2665)**

■ **Reshetnikov,Al (2487)**

64th ch-RUS HL Taganrog RUS (2), 16.06.2011

32.♗xh7! ♔xh7 33.♕h5+ ♔g7 34.♕f7+ ♔h8 35.♘e8! ♘f5 36.♘xf6

36.♘xf6 ♘g7 37.♕g6! Λ ♕h6

1-0

(4) **[B19]**

□ **Pikula,D (2531)**

■ **Berkes,F (2693)**

TCh-BIH 2011 Neum BIH (8.1), 11.06.2011

25...c4!!∓ 26.♕xb6?!

26.♕xd5 ♘fxd5∓

26...♘d7! 27.♕c7

27.bxc4 ♕xh1∓

27...cxb3 28.♘3e4

28.a4 ♖xa4 29.♘5e4 b6!-+ Λ ♖a1, ♕a8 Δ30.♘c3 ♕a8 31.♔b2 ♖c8 32.♕xd7 ♖a2+! 33.♘xa2 ♖c2+ 34.♔xb3 ♕xa2#

28...♗xg5 29.♘xg5 ♕f5+ 30.♔b2 ♖xa2+ 31.♔xb3 ♕b5+

31...♕b5+ 32.♔xa2 ♖a8+ 33.♗a5 ♖xa5+ 34.♕xa5 ♕xa5+ 35.♔b2 ♕xg5-+

0-1

(5) **[E98]**

□ **Renet,O (2497)**

■ **Giri,A (2687)**

TCh-FRA Top 12 2011 Mulhouse FRA (2.1), 27.05.2011

38...g3!-+ >< ♘h1 39.hxg3 hxg3 40.♘xg3 ♗f4 41.♘h1

41.♔f2 ♖g8 42.♕b2 (42.♘h1 ♗c2! Λ ♖g2 43.♖g1 *(43.g3 ♖xg3-+)* 43...♗xb3-+) 42...♗xg3+ 43.♔xg3 ♗d3+ 44.♔f2 ♗xf1 45.♔xf1 ♔g7-+ Λ ♔f7

41...♕h2+ 42.♔f2 e4 43.♖g1 ♖e8 44.♔f1 exf3 45.♕b2+ ♔h7 0-1

(6) **[E46]**

□ **Lafuente,P (2555)**

■ **Naiditsch,A (2716)**

41st Bosna Open Sarajevo BIH (4.4), 06.05.2011

28...d3! 29.♘xd3 ♘f3+ 30.♗xf3 ♕xf3 31.♖e3

31.♘c5 ♖h6 32.♕c2+ g6-+

31...♖h6!
31...♖h6! 32.♖xf3 ♗xf3 /\ ♖h1
0-1

(7) [B42]

☐ **Salgado Lopez,I (2623)**
■ **Smirin,I (2661)**
IX Gyorgy Marx Mem Paks HUN (5), 21.06.2011
18...♖xg3+! 19.hxg3 ♕xg3+ 20.♗g2 ♖g8 21.♕h2 ♗c6 22.♕xg3 ♖xg3 23.♘d5
23.♔h2 ♖xg2+ 24.♔h3 ♘g4 25.♘d5 ♗xd5 26.♖xd5 ♖xf2 27.♖dd1 h5!-+ /\ ♖h2, ♗b8, >< ♔h3
23...♗xd5 24.♖xd5 ♘xd5-+ 25.♔h1 ♖g5 26.♘d2 ♘f4 27.♗f3 f5 28.♘c4 ♘h3 29.♘d6+ ♔c7 30.♘xb7 ♘xf2+ 31.♔h2 e5 32.♘a5 e4 33.♗e2 f4 0-1

(8) [E12]

☐ **Korobov,A (2660)**
■ **Brodsky,M (2558)**
TCh-UKR Clubs 2011 Alushta UKR (8.5), 20.05.2011
44.♖e6!+- ♖g6
44...♗xe6 45.dxe6+ ♔f6 *(45...♔e7 46.♕b7+)* 46.e7+-
45.♕a7+ ♔f8 46.♕xh7 ♗xe6 47.dxe6 ♖g7 48.♕h8+ ♖g8 49.♕h6+
49.♕h6+ ♖g7 50.e7++-
1-0

(9) [C49]

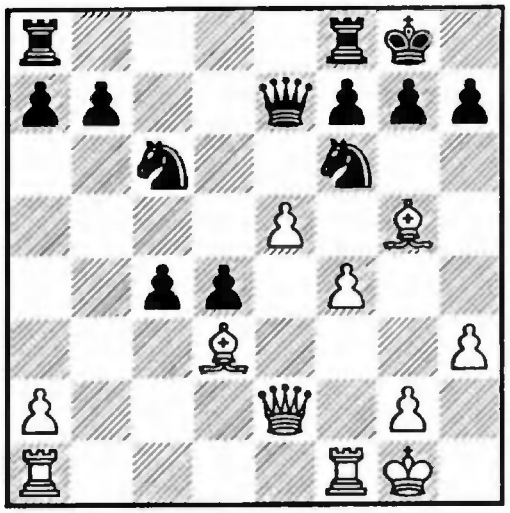
☐ **Vallejo Pons,F (2722)**
■ **Granda Zuniga,J (2614)**
I Bahia Feliz GM Bahia Feliz ESP (9), 21.05.2011
24...♘xg2!!-+ 25.♘xg2 ♗h3 26.♗f1
26.♖g1 ♗xf2 27.♗f1 ♗xg1 28.♔xg1 *(28.♘xg1 ♗xg2+ 29.♗xg2 ♖xg2 30.♔xg2 ♖g8+ 31.♔h1 ♕f2-+)* 28...♖ag8 29.♘fe1 ♖g4-+ ->]
26...♖ag8 27.♘gh4 ♕xh4! 28.♖xf7
28.♘xh4 ♖g1#
28...♖g2! 29.♖f8
29.♕d2 ♕g4-+
29...♕xf2
/\ ♖g1
30.♖xg8+ ♔xg8 31.♖e3 ♗xe3 0-1

(10) [D38]

☐ **Williams,Si1 (2520)**
■ **Eljanov,P (2712)**
TCh-FRA Top 12 2011 Mulhouse FRA (3.1), 28.05.2011
31.♖xh6! ♘f8
31...gxh6 32.♕xh6 ♘f8 33.♗f6+-
32.♕g5 f6 33.♖xf6 ♖xe7 34.♖xc6! ♕xc6 35.♖xe7 1-0

(11) [E40]

☐ **Navrotescu,C (2427)**
■ **Abergel,T (2506)**
35th Open Fourmies FRA (4.5), 12.06.2011
16...c4

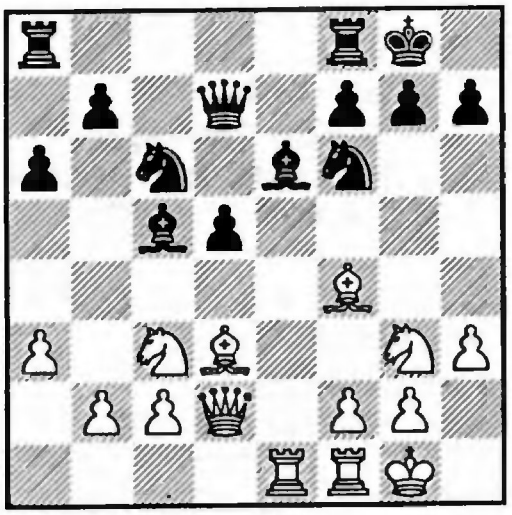


17.♗xh7+! ♔xh7 18.♗xf6 gxf6

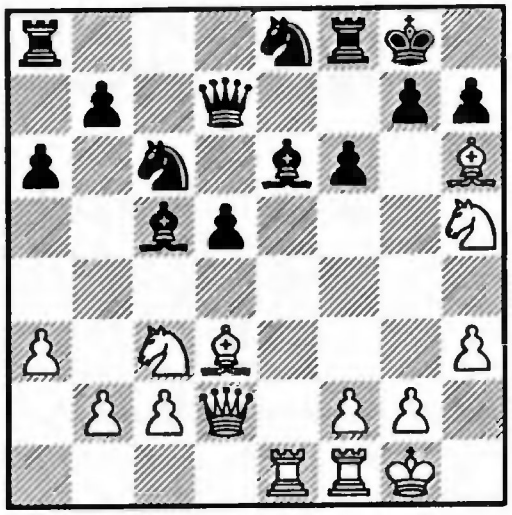
19.♕h5+ ♔g7 20.♕g4+!
20.♖f3! ♘xe5 21.fxe5 ♕xe5 22.♕h4 ♖fe8∓
20...♔h8 21.♕h4+ ♔g7 22.♖f3+- 1-0

(12) [C11]

□ **Balaian,Ali (2163)**
■ **Matveeva,S (2380)**
61st ch-RUS HL w Taganrog RUS (1), 15.06.2011
14...♘f6



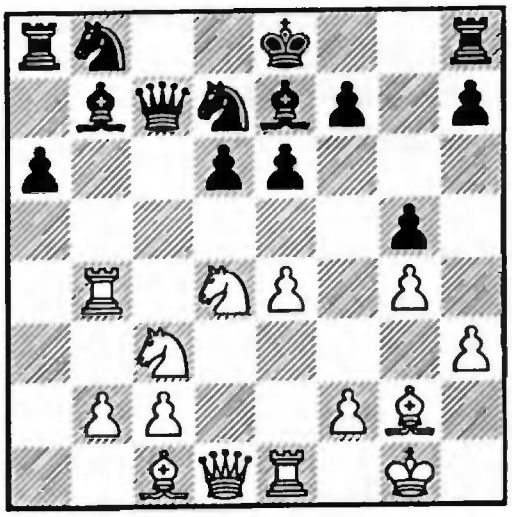
15.♗h6! ♘e8 16.♘h5 f6



17.♗xg7?
17.♖xe6! ♕xe6 18.♗xg7! ♘xg7 19.♕h6+-
17...♘xg7 18.♖xe6 ♘xe6 19.♘xd5 ♗d4 20.♕h6 f5 21.♗c4 ♔h8 22.♖e1 ♖ae8 23.♖d1 ♗g7 24.♕c1 ♘ed4 25.c3 ♕xd5 26.♖xd4 ♘xd4 0-1

(13) [B90]

□ **Sek,K (2432)**
■ **Zakhartsov,Vi (2578)**
64th ch-RUS HL Taganrog RUS (5), 19.06.2011
13...♕c7



14.♘f5! exf5 15.♖xb7! ♕xb7 16.exf5 ♘c6 17.♘d5 ♘de5 18.♘xe7 ♔xe7 19.♗xg5+ f6 20.♗xf6+ ♔xf6 21.♕xd6+ ♔g7 22.f6+ ♔g6 23.♗e4+ ♔g5 24.f4+ ♔h6 25.g5+ ♔h5 26.f7 h6 27.♗g6+ ♔h4
27...♘xg6 28.♕d1+ ♔h4 29.♕g4#
28.fxe5+- 1-0

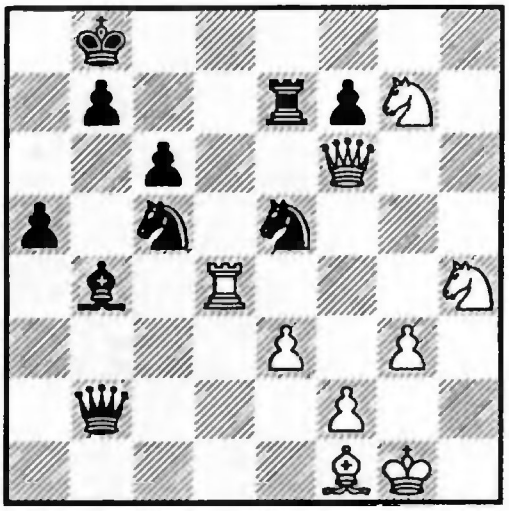
(14) **[D17]**

☐ Jakovenko,D (2732)

■ Najer,E (2643)

64th ch-RUS HL Taganrog RUS (5), 19.06.2011

31.♕f6



31...♔a7!!-+ 32.♔g2

32.♕xe7 ♘e4! 33.♕xe5 ♕xf2+ 34.♔h1 ♘xg3+ 35.♕xg3 ♕xg3 36.♘gf5 ♕e1 37.♔g2 a4 38.♘f3 ♕c3-+

32...♘ed3 33.♗xd3 ♘xd3

33...♖xe3! 34.♗h7 *(34.♗f1 ♖xg3+! 35.♔xg3 ♘e4+-+)* 34...♗c3 35.♕d8 ♗xd4 36.♘gf5 ♖e4 37.♘xd4 ♖xd4 38.♕xa5+ ♘a6-+

34.♕f5 ♖xe3 35.♖xb4 ♘xb4 36.♕c5+ ♔a6 37.♕xe3 ♕xg7 38.♕e2+ ♔b6 39.♕e3+ c5 40.♘f3 ♕f6 41.♘e5 ♕e6 42.♕f4 a4 43.♘c4+ ♔a6 44.♘a3 ♕d5+ 45.♔h2 ♕d3 46.♘c4 a3 47.♕f6+ ♘c6 48.♕xf7 a2 49.♘e5 ♕e2 0-1

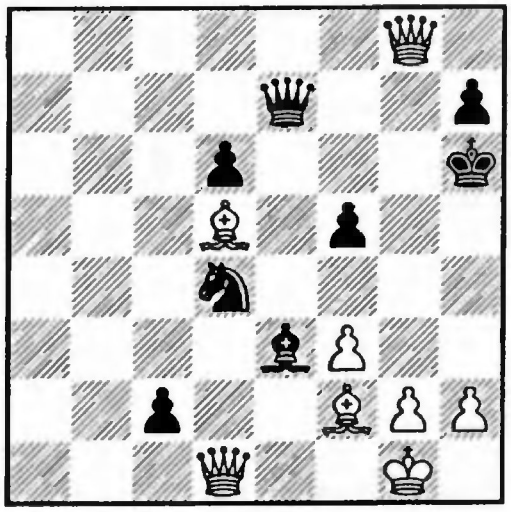
(15) **[E92]**

☐ Volkov,Sergey1 (2615)

■ Inarkiev,E (2679)

64th ch-RUS HL Taganrog RUS (3), 17.06.2011

40...♔h6



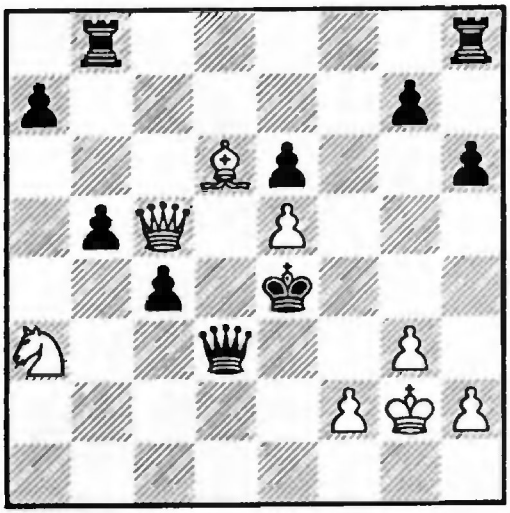
41.♕f8+! ♔g6

41...♕xf8 42.♗xe3+ f4 43.♕xd4 fxe3 44.♕xe3++-

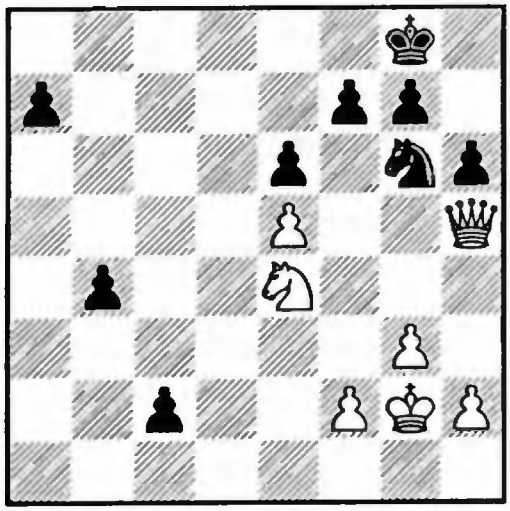
42.♗f7+! ♕xf7 43.♕xd6+ ♔h5

43...♕f6 44.♕xf6+ ♔xf6 45.♕xd4+ ♗xd4 46.♗xd4+ ♔e6 47.♗b2+-

44.g4+ fxg4 45.fxg4+ ♔g5 46.h4# 1-0



) 22...0-0 23.♗d6 b4 24.♗xf8 *(24.♗xb4 ♖c8)* 24...♘xf8 25.♘b5 c3 26.♘d6 ♘g6 27.♗e4 ♕xe4+! 28.♘xe4 c2-+



21.♗xd7+ ♔xd7 22.♕xf7+ ♔c6 23.♕f3+ ♔d7 24.♕f7+ ♔c6 25.♕f3+ ♔d7 26.♕f7+ ½-½

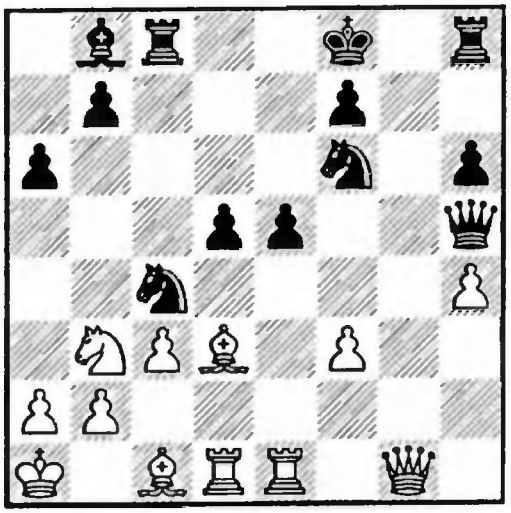
(18) [B90]

□ Kamsky,G (2732)

■ Gelfand,B (2733)

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (2.3), 14.05.2011

28...♕h5?!



29.♕h1?

⌓29.♗xc4! dxc4 *(29...♖xc4? 30.♕b6+-)* 30.♕b6 And the queen is coming inside the black≥side. 30...♕f5 *(30...♕xf3 31.♕b4+ ♔e8 32.♘d4!+-)* 31.♘c5+-

½-½

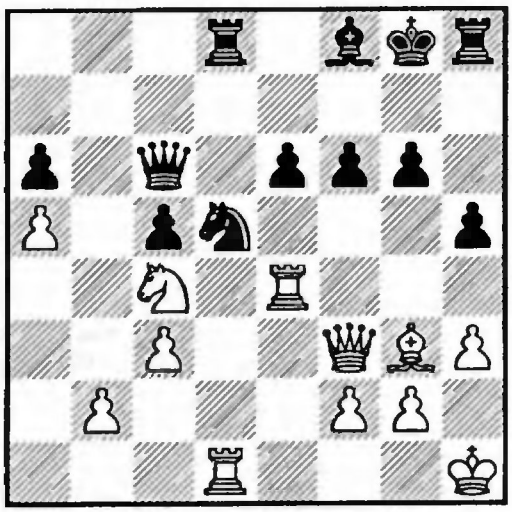
(16) **[B30]**

☐ **Khalifman,A (2627)**

■ **Sitnikov,D (2463)**

64th ch-RUS HL Taganrog RUS (1), 15.06.2011

23...g6



24.♗d6! ♖e8

24...e5 25.♗xe5 fxe5 26.♘xe5 ♕e6 27.c4+-

25.♖de1! ♕d7 26.♗xf8 ♔xf8 27.♘b6+- 1-0

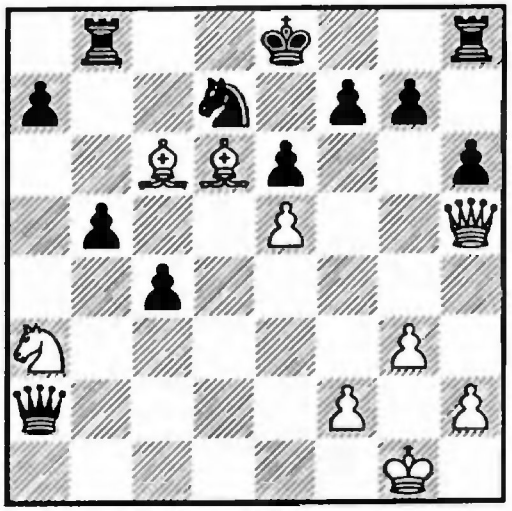
(17) **[E04]**

☐ **Le Quang Liem (2687)**

■ **David,Alb (2593)**

TCh-FRA Top 12 2011 Mulhouse FRA (2.2), 27.05.2011

20.♗c6



20...♖b6?!

This move immidiatly fix a draw. [20...♕b3! black could try play for win, idea of this move is take control on f3 squar- to avoid perpetual check after ♗xd7 21.♔g2 ♕d3 22.♗xb8 *(22.♗xd7+ ♔xd7 23.♕xf7+ ♔c6 24.♕c7+ ♔d5 25.♕c5+ ♔e4-+*

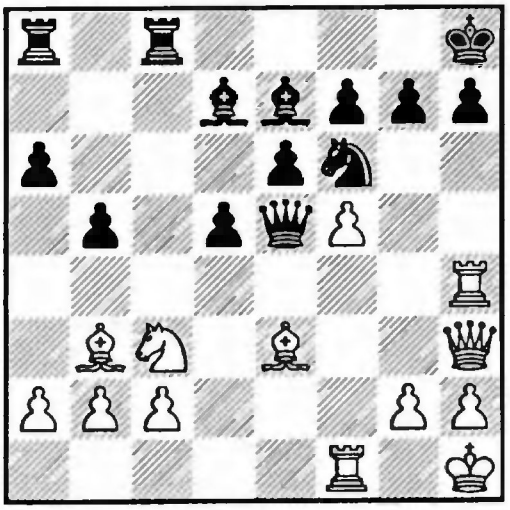
(19) **[B87]**

□ **Mamedyarov,S (2772)**

■ **Gelfand,B (2733)**

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (1.3), 07.05.2011

20.♔h1



20...♖xc3!

A great move by Gelfand, it is a typical sacrifice in the Najdorf for Black. Now, Black got a good advantage in this position with a strong center and the idea to push the "a" pawn.

21.bxc3 ♕xc3 22.♖d4?!

22.♗d4 ♕xh3 23.♖xh3 ♘e4 24.fxe6 ♗xe6 25.♖d3 was a better defence for Mamedyarov.

22...a5∓ 0-1

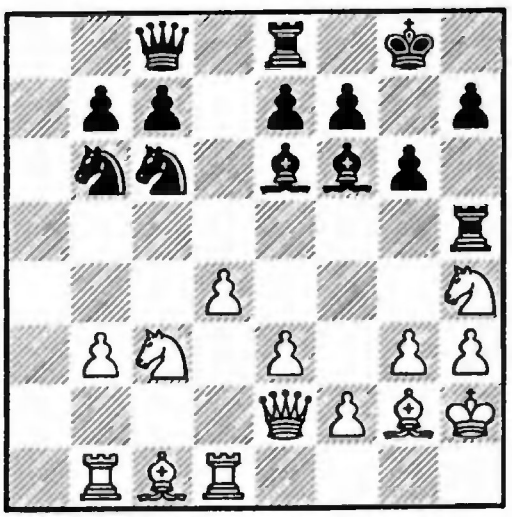
(20) **[E60]**

□ **Gelfand,B (2733)**

■ **Grischuk,A (2747)**

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (3.6), 25.05.2011

18...♗f6



19.f4!

Great conception by the israelian player! The doubling of pawn on h4 is not a problem . And after it the white≥s dark bishop will shine!

19...♖d8

19...♗xh4 20.gxh4 ♖xh4 21.♔g3! ♖xh3+ 22.♗xh3 ♗xh3 23.d5 ♘b4 24.♗a3±

20.♕f2 ♗xh4?

20...♘d5 was the only move in this position with a very nice idea ! 21.♘xd5 ♖dxd5! Beautiful sacrifice, this is the point of the idea! 22.♗f3 *(22.♗xd5 ♗xd5 23.♗d2 ♘a7 24.♖e1 ♕e6 25.♖a1 ♘b5∓* And black have big compensation for the exchange.*; 22.♗b2? ♖d8 23.♗c3 ♘a7 24.d5 ♗xd5 25.♗xf6 ♗xg2 26.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 27.♕xg2 exf6∓)* 22...♗xh3 23.e4 ♗xd4 24.♕e2 ♖c5 *(24...♖xh4 25.gxh4 ♖d6 26.f5 ♗xf5 27.exf5 ♕xf5 28.♗h6 ♘e5 29.♔g3 ♘xf3 30.♕xf3 ♕d7±)* 25.♗xh5 *(25.b4 ♖xh4 26.gxh4 ♖c3 27.b5 ♘e5! 28.fxe5 ♗xe5+ 29.♔g1 ♖xf3 30.♕xf3 ♗g4 31.♕d3 ♗xd1 32.♕xd1 ♕h3∞* Black is rook down, but has 4 pawn

in compensation and the king in g1 is really weak.) 25...gxh5 26.♖d3 e5 27.f5 ♗g4 28.♕d2 f6⩱

21.gxh4 ♘d5 22.♘xd5 ♖hxd5 23.♗b2±

23.♗xd5 ♗xd5 24.f5 ♕xf5 25.♕xf5 gxf5⩱

1-0

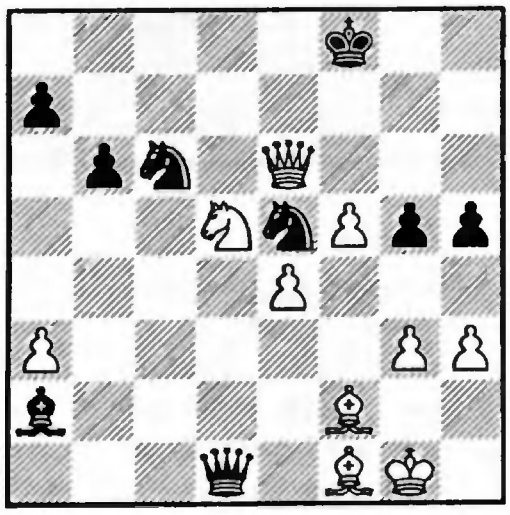
(21) [A15]

☐ **Topalov,V (2775)**

■ **Kamsky,G (2732)**

WCh Candidates Kazan RUS (1.4), 08.05.2011

45.♗f1??



45...♗xd5 46.exd5 ♘d4! 47.♕f6+

47.♕xe5?? ♘f3+ 48.♔g2 ♘xe5-+

47...♔g8 48.♕xg5+

48.♗xd4 ♕xd4+ 49.♔h1 ♕xd5+ 50.♗g2 ♕d1+ 51.♔h2 ♘f3+ 52.♗xf3 ♕xf3 53.♕xg5+ ♔f7 54.♕g6+ ♔f8=

48...♔f7 49.♕d8 ♕c2

Controling the square in c7, very important move by the American player.

50.♗g2 ♕c1+ 51.♔h2 ♕c2

And now it≥s a dead draw, nothing to do for Topalov.

52.♗g1 ♘df3+ 53.♔h1 ♘e1 54.♗f2 ♕xf2 55.♕c7+ ♔f6 56.♕d6+ ♔f7 57.♕c7+ ♔f6 58.♕d6+ ♔f7 ½-½

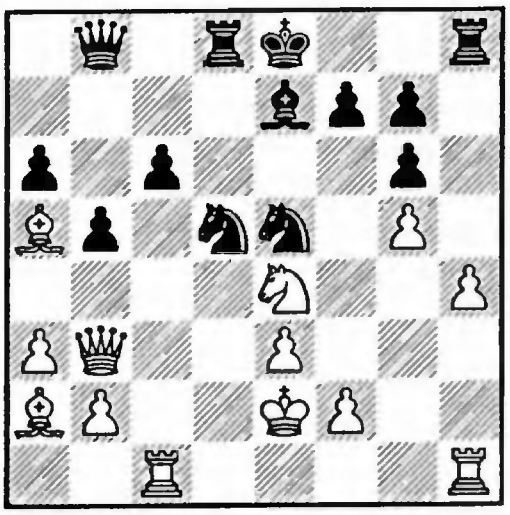
(22) [D11]

☐ **Volkov,Sergey1 (2621)**

■ **Sokolov,Ivan (2643)**

Nakhchivan Open Nakhchivan AZE (8), 30.04.2011

23.♗a5?!

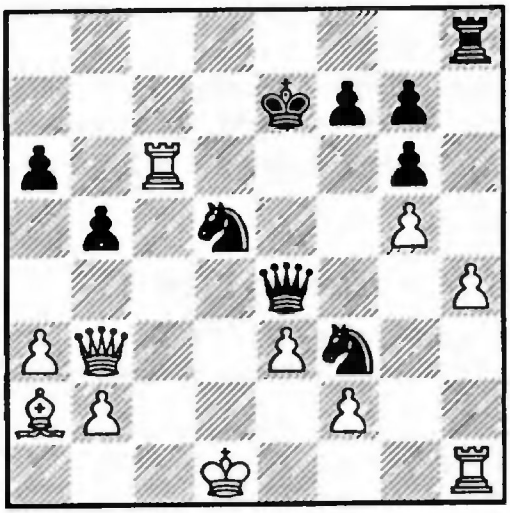


Missing on black idea

23...♕c8!! 24.♗xd8 ♕g4+ 25.♔d2 ♕xe4 26.♗xe7 ♘f3+!

Tactics are working for black here.

27.♔d1 ♔xe7 28.♖xc6



Or 28.♖c2 ♘d4-+

28...♘e5! 29.♕xd5 ♖d8 30.♖c7+ ♔e8 31.♔c1 ♖xd5-+ 32.♗xd5 ♘d3+ 33.♔b1 ♕xd5 34.♖d1 b4

Combination of black material advantage and white open king play a crucial role. position is easily winning for black.

35.axb4 ♕b3 36.♖d2 ♘xb4 37.♖c8+ ♔e7 38.♖c7+ ♔e6 39.♖d8 ♕a2+ 40.♔c1 ♕a1+ 41.♔d2 ♕xb2+ 42.♔e1 ♘c2+ 43.♔d1 ♕b1+ 44.♔d2 ♘b4 45.♔e2 a5 46.♖d4 ♕f5 47.♔f1 ♕b5+ 48.♔g1 ♘d5 49.♖a7 ♕b1+ 50.♔g2 ♕b6 51.♖a8 ♘xe3+ 0-1

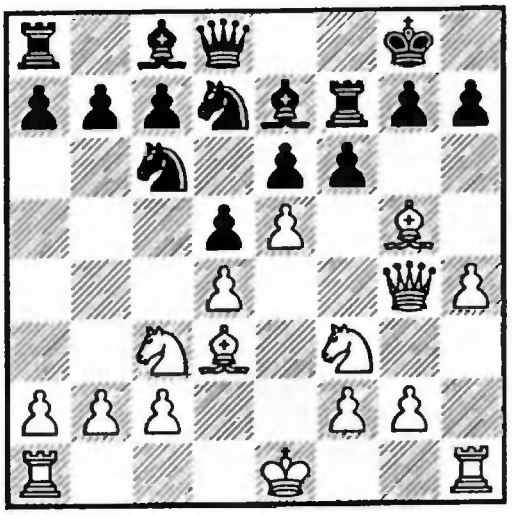
(23) **[C13]**

□ **Hector,J (2588)**

■ **So,W (2667)**

19th Sigeman & Co Malmo SWE (5), 13.06.2011

9...♘c6



9...f5 10.♕f4±

10.♗g6! hxg6 11.h5 gxh5 12.♕xh5 ♖f8 13.♘xd5 ♘xd4

13...fxg5 14.♘xe7+ ♕xe7 15.♘xg5

14.♘xd4 ♘xe5 15.♘xe7+ ♕xe7 16.♗d2 ♘c4 17.0-0-0 ♘xd2 18.♖xd2 e5 19.♘b5 ♗e6 20.♖d3 ♖fd8 21.♖g3 ♔f8 22.♕h8+ ♗g8 23.♖h7 ♖d7 24.♖hxg7 ♕xg7 25.♖xg7 ♖xg7 26.♕h6 ♔f7 27.♕h5+ ♔e7 28.♕f3 c6 29.♕a3+ ♔e6 30.♕d6+ ♔f5 31.♘c7± 0-1

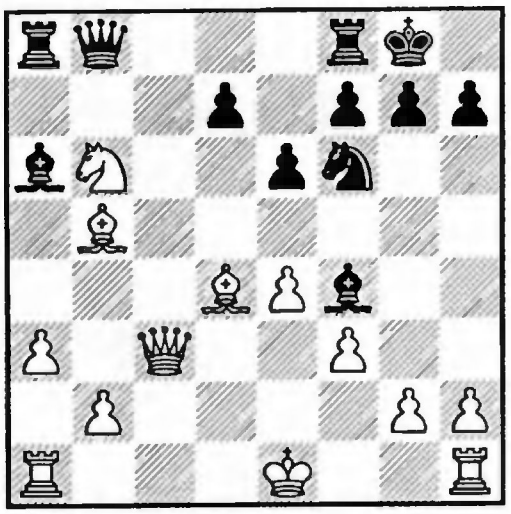
(24) **[A30]**

☐ **Ivanchuk,V (2776)**

■ **Nisipeanu,LD (2659)**

5th Kings Tournament Medias ROU (8), 19.06.2011

17...♗a6



18.♕a5?!

Ivanchuk is making a mistake in complication. I am at home, and my computer shows a much stronger move, after which Black would be in big trouble (18.♗c4! Not easy even to think of such a move during the game. 18...♖a7 19.g3 ♗d6 20.♖d1±)

18...♗xb5 19.♕xb5 d5!

Black needs to act quickly, they are pawn down and should try to use the moment that Whites king is still in the center, and white pieces are somehow hanging a bit.

20.♕e2 ♗e5!

Another great move by Nisipeanu!

21.♗xe5 ♕xb6 22.♖d1 ♖a4!

Giving White no rest! Every Blacks move is an attacking move.

23.♕f2

23.♗xf6? To play for a win would be a big mistake here for White 23...gxf6 24.exd5 exd5 25.♖xd5 ♖c8 26.♖d1 ♖ac4-+

23...♕b5 24.♕e2 ♕b6 ½-½

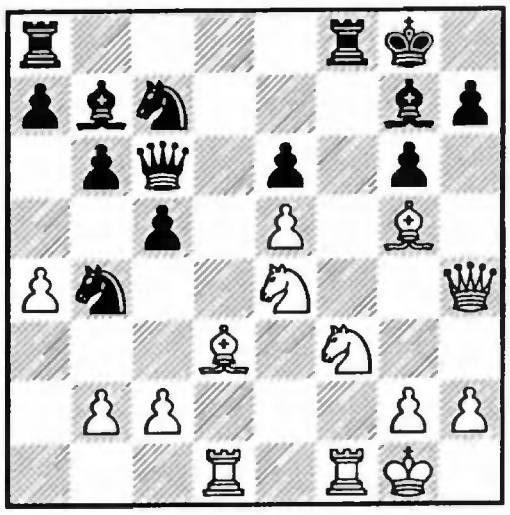
(25) **[B09]**

☐ **Karjakin,Sergey (2776)**

■ **Ivanchuk,V (2776)**

5th Kings Tournament Medias ROU (9), 20.06.2011

17...♕c6



18.♘f6+!

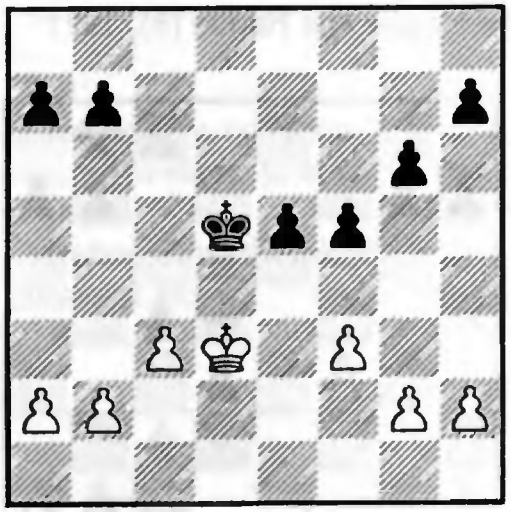
The finishing move! Small, but very nice combination.

18...♗xf6 19.♗xg6! hxg6 20.♗xf6 ♖xf6 21.exf6 ♖f8 22.♕g5 1-0

Endgame section

(1)

Pawn Endgame 1



This pawn configuration leads to a dead draw as both sides have to stay put.

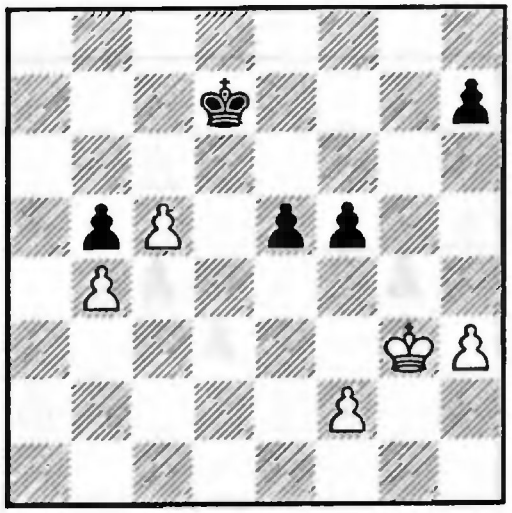
1... b5 2.b3 a5=

With 3 against 2 pawns the queenside majority is useless even in a pawn endgame, as the creation of a passed c–pawn will leave the a pawn doomed. Conceptionally only a 2-1 pawn majority is a potential danger.

3.c4+?? bxc4+ 4.bxc4+ ♔c5 5.♔c3 a4 6.♔d3 e4+ 7.fxe4 fxe4+ 8.♔xe4 ♔xc4-+ Line *[Meier,Georg]*

(2)

Pawn Endgame 2



1.♔h4

White wins in this example because the black king is a tempo shy of supporting his pawns. By staying on e6 and f6 black will be able to repel white's winning try and hold a draw : 1... ♔e6 2.♔h4 h6 3.♔h5 e4 4.♔h4 ♔e5! The point: White's king can't come closer before releasing his c–pawn 5.c6 *(5.♔g3 f4+ 6.♔g2 ♔d5 7.♔f1 ♔e5 8.♔e2 ♔d5 9.♔d2 ♔e5 10.♔c3 ♔d5= 11.c6?? ♔xc6 12.♔d4 e3 13.fxe3 f3-+)* 5... ♔d6 6.♔g3 ♔xc6 7.♔f4 ♔d5 8.♔xf5 ♔c4 9.♔xe4 ♔xb4= 10.♔d4 ♔a3 11.f4 b4 12.f5 b3 13.f6 b2 14.f7 b1♕ 15.f8♕+ ♕b4+=

1... h6 2.♔h5

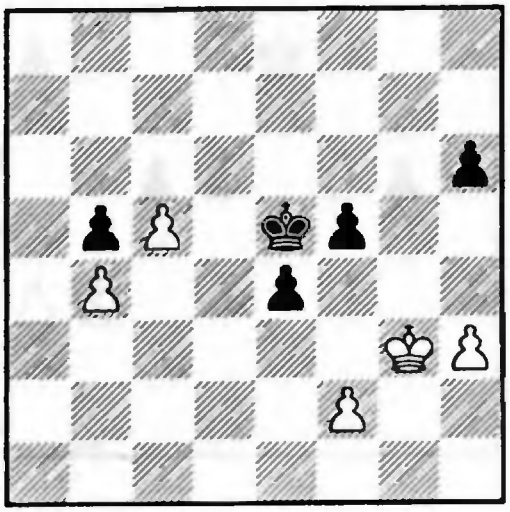
Note that with the white f–pawn on f3 white wouldnt have any winning try, because e5–e4 would create a passed pawn immediately.

2... e4

The weakening has been provoked

3.♔h4

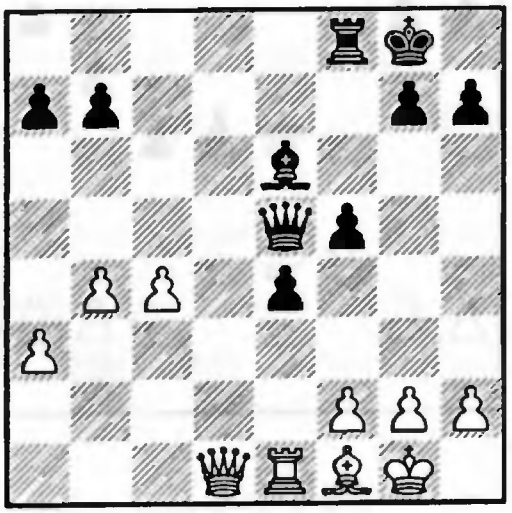
And whites king is aiming for the f4 square 3.♔xh6?? f4-+
3... ♔e6 4.♔g3 ♔e5



Now the fundamental idea of converting a queenside pawn-majority comes into action : Deflection of the opponents king with decisive effect.
5.c6 ♔d6
5... f4+ 6.♔g4 h5+ 7.♔xh5 e3 8.fxe3 f3 9.c7 f2 10.c8♕ f1♕ 11.♕g4+-
6.♔f4 ♔xc6 7.♔e5!
Bodycheck! Black gets into Zugzwang and has to retreat with his king.
7... h5 8.h4+- Line *[Meier,Georg]*

(3) **[B40]**

□ **Yates,Frederick**
■ **Alekhine,Alexander**
The Hague The Hague (8), 1921



Behind the e-pawn black centralized his pieces.Once the e- and f-pawns move forward white's king will be in danger of suffocation.The white queenside majority doesn't represent any danger as whites pieces are too passive to turn it into an asset.
23... ♕c3!
The penetration of the queen forces a concession.
24.♕c1
24.♖e3 ♕f6 25.c5 ♖d8∓ and black takes over the d-file
24... ♕xc1 25.♖xc1 ♖d8∓ 26.g3
White had to challenge blacks space advantage with 26.f3!
26... ♔f7 27.c5 ♔f6
Behind his advanced pawns blacks king immediately took up an influential position. He is ready to support the advance of the kingside pawns and

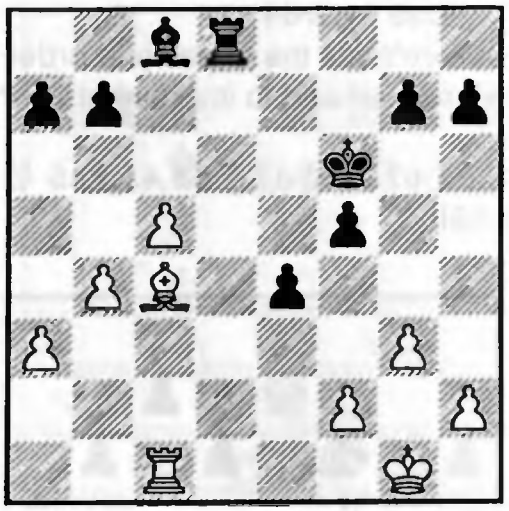
can keep an eye on the white c–pawn at the same time. Meanwhile, white's king is far from the center of attention, as he lacks space to creep out of his box.

28.♗c4

Understandably, suffering from lack of space, white wants to ease his task by exchanges.

White should have looked for counterplay with 28.c6

28... ♗c8!



Keeping bishops on the board will allow black to develop an attack on whites king after g5, f4 and the opening of the kingside. And the white Bishop actually obstructs the support of whites c–pawn.

28... ♗xc4 29.♖xc4 ♔e5 30.c6=

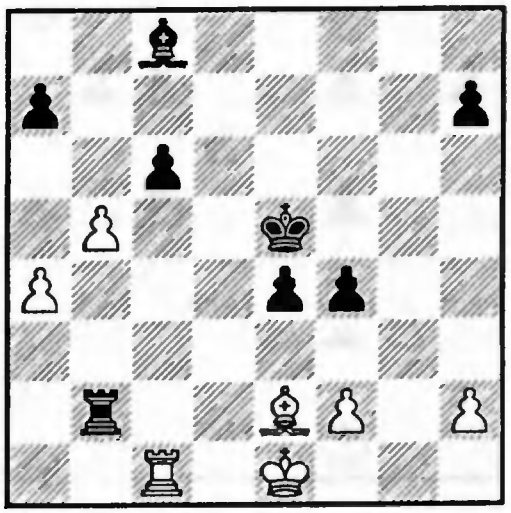
29.a4 g5 30.b5 f4 31.♔f1 ♖d2 32.♔e1 ♖b2 33.gxf4 gxf4 34.♗e2

34.c6 f3

34... ♔e5

Thanks to the central majority, we see a huge difference between the 2 kings. While black has one more piece in play, white's king is mainly a source of concern, being restricted to the first rank and facing a slow but dangerous attack.

35.c6 bxc6



36.♖xc6?

36.bxc6 Had to be tried. It leaves the c–pawn very vulnerable, but glues the black Bishop to c8.

36... ♗e6-+

The black bishop comes back into play and blacks' positional domination already leaves white defenceless against a coming breakthrough with f3 and e3.

37.♗d1

37.♖c1 f3 38.♗d1 e3 39.♗xf3 ♖xf2

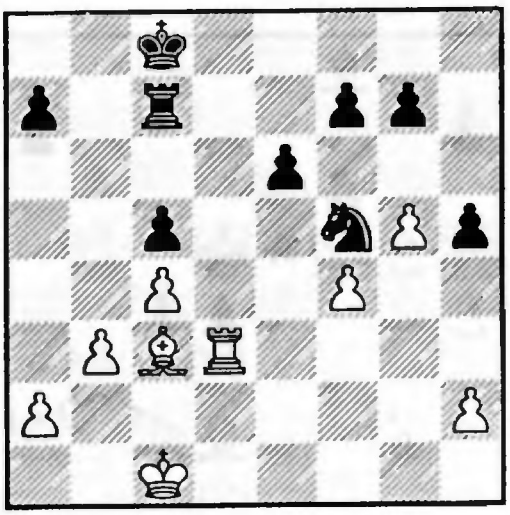
37... ♖b1 38.♖c5+ ♔d4 39.♖c2 e3 40.fxe3+ fxe3 41.♖c6 ♗g4 42.♖d6+ ♔e5 43.h3 ♗h5 0-1 *[Meier,Georg]*

(4) **[B45]**

□ **Meier,Georg (2558)**

■ **Socko,Bartosz (2631)**

EU-Cup 24th Kallithea (2), 2008



White has a better structure and the better light piece. If black gets to exchange rooks this shouldn't be sufficient for a win though, as black could get counterplay in the center with f7-f6 once the white Bishop leaves the a1-h8 diagonal.

28.♖h3!±

Forcing a serious concession : Blacks kingside structure will be chronically devaluated or he loses a pawn.

28... g6

28... h4 29.♗e1

29.♖d3 ♖d7 30.♔d2 ♔c7 31.a3 a6 32.b4 ♖xd3+ 33.♔xd3 ♔c6

For the moment black seems to be holding, but white can increase the pressure...

34.♗e1!

White is about to force the exchange on b4 leaving him with a valuable 2-1 majority. This underlines the inferiority of isolated a- and c-pawns compared to a tandem of a- and b-pawn.

34... ♘d6 35.♗f2 cxb4 36.axb4 ♘f5 37.♗e1 ♘e7

If black stays passive with 37... ♘d6 38.♗c3 ♘f5 39.♗d4 ♔d7 40.♗c5 ♔c6 41.♗f8 ♔d7 42.♔e4 could follow

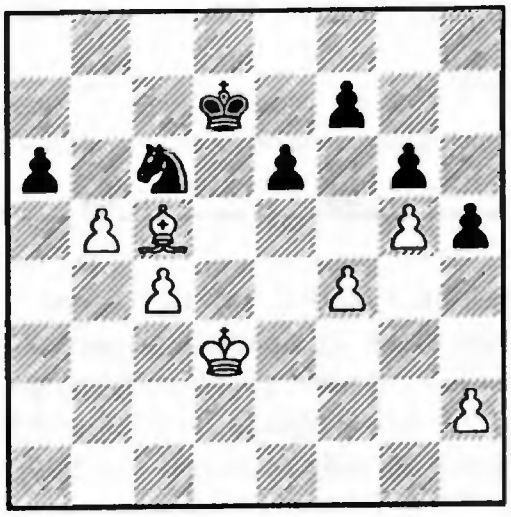
38.♔e4 ♘c8 39.♔e5 ♔d7 40.♗f2

After the self-evident sequence 40.♔f6 ♔e8 41.b5 axb5 42.cxb5 ♘d6 43.b6 ♘b7 black would errect a fortress!

40... ♘d6 41.♔d4

White defends the c-pawn in order to have a free hand to improve his bishop.

41... ♘b7 42.♔d3 ♘d8 43.♗c5 ♘c6 44.b5!



Finally the next step towards destination is taken.

44... axb5 45.cxb5 ♘d8 46.♗d4 ♘b7 47.♗e5+-

Domination

47... h4

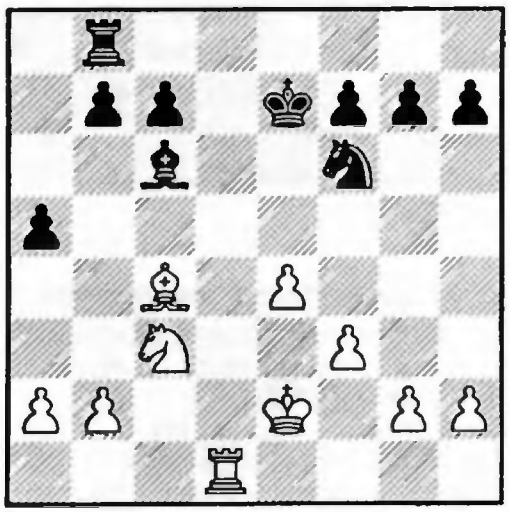
47... ♘c5+ 48.♔c4 ♘b7 49.h3⊙

48.h3 ♘c5+ 49.♔d4 ♘a4 50.♔c4 ♘b6+ 51.♔b4 ♔c8 52.♔c5 ♘d5 53.♔d6 ♔d8 54.♔c6 ♘b4+
54... ♔c8 55.♗d6
55.♔b7 ♘d3 56.b6 ♘c5+ 57.♔c6

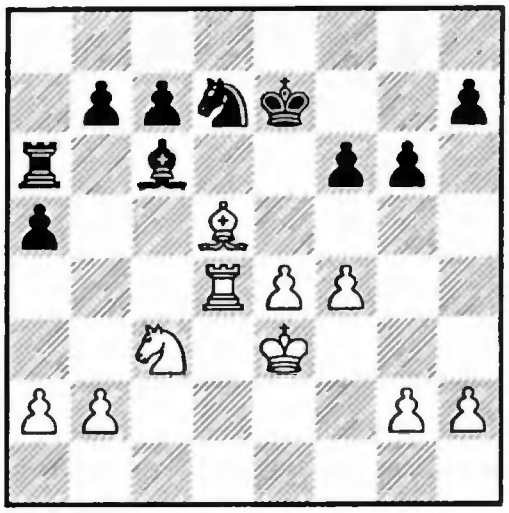
1-0 *[Meier,Georg]*

(5) **[D20]**

□ **Karpov,An (2755)**
■ **Seirawan,Y (2585)**
World Cup Skelleftea, 1989

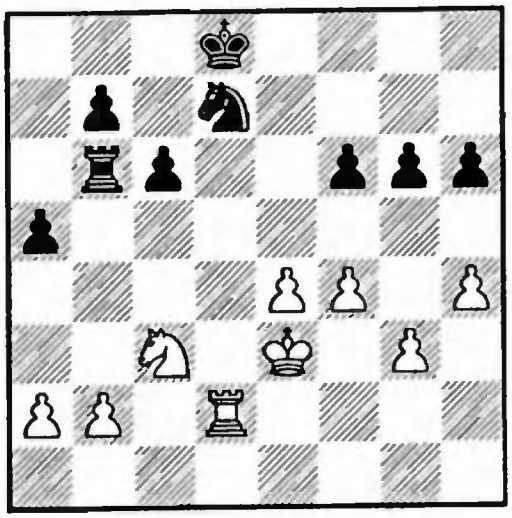


17.♔e3
White has a significant advantage: His e-pawn is restricting the opponents light pieces as if they were biting on granite. His control of the d-file can't be contested as the f7 pawn would fall.
17... g6?!
Black has difficulties in finding constructive ideas.
17... b5 18.♗f1! /\ ♖c1, ♘e2 would allow white to immediately exploit the weaknesses created by b7-b5; 17... ♘d7! 18.♗d5 ♗xd5 19.♘xd5+ ♔d8 20.f4 ♘c5! was called for, giving black good chances to survive.
18.♗b3 ♖a8
/\a4-a3
19.♖d4!
First of all Karpov restricts any possible counterplay.
19... ♘d7
Logical,the ♘ wasnt doing anything on f6.
20.♗d5!
White tries to transform his advantages. A white knight would be killing on d5 so black is forced to put his rook out of play.
20... ♖a6
20... ♗xd5 21.♘xd5++- ><f6
21.f4 f6

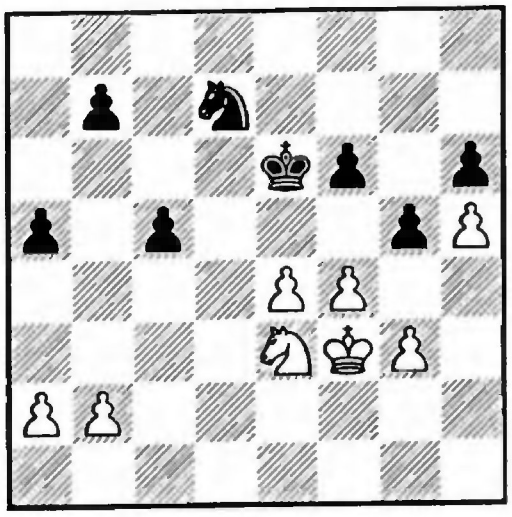


22.h4!
Getting ready to take more and more space on the kingside.
22.g4?! g5
22... h6
Black must be ready to answer g2-g4 with g6-g5,but his whole kingside remains vulnerable.

22... ♗xd5 23.♘xd5+ ♔d8 24.g4 ♖d6 25.g5±;
22... h5 On h5 the pawn will be exposed after an ecentual f4-f5,for example: 23.g3 ♖b6 24.♖d2 ♘c5 25.♗xc6 ♖xc6 26.♖d5 ♔f7 27.f5!±
23.g3 ♗xd5 24.♘xd5+ ♔d8 25.♘c3 ♖b6?!
The black rook will stay out of play here.
25... c6 26.♘a4 b6 27.♖d6 ♔c7 28.♖e6± *(28.e5±)*; ⌓25... ♔e7
26.♖d2!
26.b3? ♖c6
26... c6?



Black cracks unter the pressure. He wants to prepare ♔e7 but now his complete lack of coordination will be exploited.
27.h5! g5
The h6-pawn is doomed. 27... gxh5 28.b3 ♖b4 29.♖h2
28.♔f3
28.fxg5 fxg5 29.e5 ♔e7 30.♔e4 was even stronger
28... ♔e7 29.♘e2!
/\ ♘d4-f5
29... c5
Blacks pawn structure became a disaster on both sides of the board.
30.♘c3 ♖d6 31.♖d5?
31.♖xd6 ♔xd6 32.♘b5+! definitely a non-standard way to go to f5! *(32.♘d1 gxf4 33.gxf4 f5)* 32... ♔c6 33.♘a3 b5 34.♘c2 /\ ♘e3-f5 34... gxf4 35.♔xf4 should be winning for white *(35.gxf4 f5)*
31... ♖xd5?
Cooperative
Black had an unexpected chance to reorganise his pieces: 31... ♖c6! 32.♘d1 ♘b6 33.♖d3 ♘c4
32.♘xd5+ ♔e6
32... ♔f7 33.♘e3 ♔g7 34.a4
33.♘e3+-



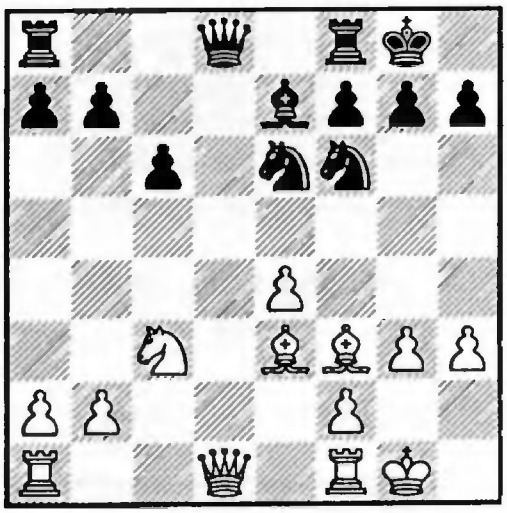
33... b5 34.♘f5 ♘b6 35.♘xh6 ♘c4
35... ♘a4 36.♘f5 ♔f7 37.♘d6+
36.♘f5 ♔f7 37.b3 ♘d2+ 38.♔e3
From the start black's defensive task seemed very difficult,and all this just because of the strong e-pawn!
1-0 *[Meier,Georg]*

(6) **[A11]**

□ **Malakhov,Vladimir (2664)**

■ **Sargissian,Gabriel (2602)**

Mos, Aeroflot op-A Moscow (5), 2005



We will see another example of the superiority of the central pawn majority:

14.♕xd8

A very deep move. White understood that in the middlegame he might have problems finding a good square for the queen and decides to exchange it, not caring about the fact that he actually helps Black's development. Malakhov was already relying on the prospect that his central majority would guarantee him a small but stable edge in the resulting technical positions.

14.♗g2 /\ f4,e5 14... ♕a5 /\ ♖d8, ♗c5 15.a3 *(15.♕e2 ♗c5 16.♗xc5 ♕xc5)* 15... ♖ad8 16.♕e2 ♘d4 17.♗xd4 ♖xd4

14... ♖fxd8 15.♖ad1 ♘d7

Aiming to exchange the dark squared bishops with all the comfort.

15... ♗c5 16.♗xc5 ♘xc5 17.♗g2 *(17.e5 ♘fd7 18.♖fe1 ♘b6 /\Nca4 19.b3 a5⇄)* 17... ♘d3 18.f4!± ♘xb2 19.♖b1

16.♗g4!

16.♗e2 ♗c5 17.♗xc5 ♘dxc5 x d4

16... ♘e5

The relocation of the knights favours White, since the critical d4-square is under less pressure.

16... ♗c5?? 17.♗xe6 fxe6 18.♖xd7+-

17.♗e2 ♗c5 18.♗xc5 ♘xc5 19.f4 ♘ed3

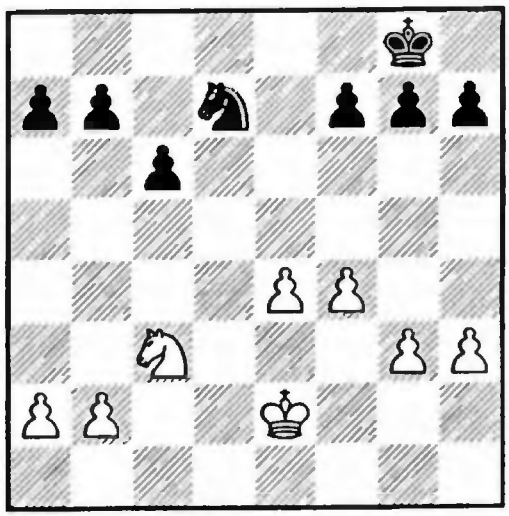
This square is obviously far less appealing for the black knights than d4.

20.♗xd3

There was no need to hurry with this exchange.

20.♖d2± was preferable

20... ♘xd3 21.♖d2 ♖d7 22.♖fd1 ♖ad8 23.♔f1 ♘c5 24.♖xd7 ♖xd7 25.♖xd7 ♘xd7 26.♔e2±



The presence of knights is favourable for the side with central control. Although white's advantage is small, black has to take a series of accurate decisions to secure half a point. In this

game a player as strong as Sargissian wasn't up to this task.

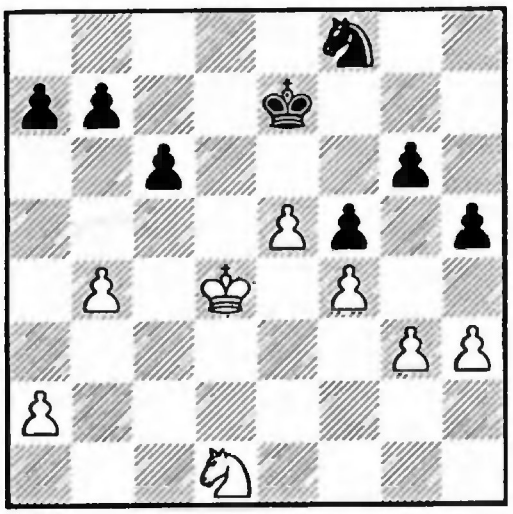
26... h5

26... f6 followed by ♔f7-e6 would be a sound choice

27.♔e3 ♔f8 28.♔d4 ♔e7 29.b4 g6 30.♘d1 f5!?

30... b6 was a less comittal choice

31.e5 ♘f8



32.h4!

Not allowing any counterplay on the kingside

32... ♘e6+

Black relies on the power of his blockading knight,but having granted white a protected passed pawn any imprecision can cost him dearly.

33.♔d3 c5?!

With hindsight it becomes clear that black should have taken space with 33... b5! as the White knight is too far away from c5 black will be able to exchange pawns with c6-c5 coming closer to a draw.

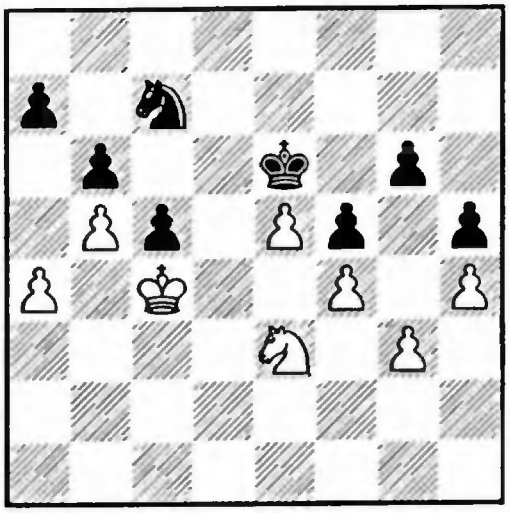
34.b5!

A strong decision,surely underestimated by Sargissian.White takes space but grants black a protected passed pawn of his own. Now it boils down to the typical advantage of the side with the central majority : Malakhov has more space to activate his pieces and is playing for positional domination. His pawns being closer to promotion is another aspect that will contribute to decide the game in his favour.

34... ♘d4 35.a4 b6 36.♘e3 ♘e6 37.♘c4 ♘c7 38.♘e3 ♔d7

38... ♘e6 39.♔c4

39.♔c4 ♔e6



40.a5!

Now b6 becomes the base of the black pawn chain and the target of whites manoeuvring.

40... ♔d7 41.♘d1 ♔e6?

Black doesnt feel the danger and stays passive for too long.

41... ♘e6

42.♘c3 ♔d7 43.♘a4 ♘a8 44.♘xc5+!

The triumph of white's strategy: He activated his pieces to the maximum, forcing the opposite ones into passivity and now cashes in on his space advantage.Black is helpless against whites advanced pawns.

44... bxc5 45.♔xc5+- ♘c7 46.b6 ♘e6+ 47.♔b5 axb6 48.♔xb6

And the a-pawn decides the day.

48... g5

Desperation,black could just resign as well.

49.a6 gxh4 50.a7 hxg3 51.a8♕ h4 52.♕d5+ 1-0 *[Meier,Georg]*

Contents

CHESS EVOLUTION JULY 3

GAMES 5

(1) Kramnik,V (2785) – Grischuk,A (2747) [A04] 7
(2) Topalov,V (2775) – Kamsky,G (2732) [A15] 12
(3) Topalov,V (2775) – Kamsky,G (2732) [A15] 15
(4) Ivanchuk,V (2776) – Nisipeanu,LD (2659) [A30] 19
(5) Meier,Geo (2650) – Iordachescu,V (2640) [A30] 22
(6) Jobava,Ba (2704) – Saric,Iv (2637) [A36] 30
(7) Gelfand,B (2733) – Grischuk,A (2747) [A37] 34
(8) Grachev,B (2669) – Sasikiran,K (2676) [A37] 37
(9) Predojevic,B (2617) – Melkumyan,H (2580) [A37] 43
(10) Wojtaszek,R (2721) – Williams,S. Kim (2520) [A96] 49
(11) Karjakin,Sergey (2776) – Ivanchuk,V (2776) [B09] 52
(12) Caruana,F (2714) – Miton,K (2619) [B12] 54
(13) Perunovic,Mil (2578) – Solak,D (2588) [B12] 66
(14) Mamedyarov,S (2772) – Gelfand,B (2733) [B87] 72
(15) Kamsky,G (2732) – Gelfand,B (2733) [B90] 74
(16) Kamsky,G (2732) – Topalov,V (2775) [B90] 83
(17) Ivanchuk,Vassily (2776) – Le,Quang Liem (2687) [C07] 86
(18) Hector,J (2588) – So,W (2667) [C13] 92
(19) Ivanchuk,V (2776) – Karjakin,Sergey (2776) [C53] 96
(20) Nisipeanu,LD (2659) – Ivanchuk,V (2776) [C67] 100
(21) David,Alb (2593) – Sokolov,Ivan (2645) [C77] 103
(22) Iordachescu,V (2640) – Adams,Mi (2726) [C88] 105
(23) So,W (2667) – Shirov,A (2701) [D11] 114
(24) Volkov,Sergey1 (2621) – Sokolov,Ivan (2643) [D11] 118
(25) Navara,David (2702) – Bruzon B. Lazaro (2693) [D23] 122
(26) Grischuk,A (2747) – Gelfand,B (2733) [D37] 128

(27) Grischuk,A (2747) – Gelfand,B (2733) [D37] 131
(28) Grischuk,A (2747) – Gelfand,B (2733) [D37] 133
(29) Bacrot,E (2705) – Peralta,Fe (2608) [D38] 135
(30) Williams,Simon Kim (2520) – Eljanov,P (2712) [D38] 138
(31) Wojtaszek,R (2721) – Shirov,A (2709) [D47] 142
(32) Gelfand,B (2733) – Kamsky,G (2732) [D80] 151
(33) Aronian,L (2808) – Grischuk,A (2747) [D86] 153
(34) Zhou Jianchao (2636) – Li Chao2 (2656) [D87] 157
(35) Sokolov,Ivan (2643) – Wang Yue (2734) [D90] 164
(36) Le Quang Liem (2687) – David,Alb (2593) [E04] 169
(37) Sasikiran,K (2676) – Alekseev,Evgeny (2673) [E04] 178
(38) Sasikiran,K (2676) – Socko,B (2654) [E04] 186
(39) Sokolov,Ivan (2643) – Vallejo Pons,F (2707) [E04] 192
(40) Andreikin,Dmitry (2687) – Br. B. Lazaro (2693) [E05] 198
(41) Bacrot,E (2705) – Rozentalis,E (2573) [E20] 204
(42) Bacrot,E (2705) – Renet,O (2497) [E21] 207
(43) Wang Yue (2714) – Yu Yangyi (2646) [E21] 214
(44) Gelfand,B (2733) – Grischuk,A (2747) [E60] 221
(45) Melkumyan,H (2580) – Jobava,Ba (2704) [E61] 224
(46) Navara,David (2702) – Dom. Per. Leinier (2726) [E70] 229

COMBINATIONS 235

ENDGAME SECTION 255

All information about the book You can find on:
www.chess-evolution.com

ISSN 2217-5156
9772217515004